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## Gov't to complain over Syrian earthworks in Golan

**By JAY BUSHINSKY and ARIEH O'SULLIVAN**

The government plans to lodge a complaint to the UN Disengagement Observation Force about ditches being dug along the Syrian side of the Golan Heights cease-fire line.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's communications director, David Bar-Ilan, confirmed this yesterday. He called the ditches a breach of the cease-fire agreement.

The Syrians reportedly replied that the ditches were for "agricultural use." But the IDF has rejected this explanation.

Israel later demanded that an arbitrator be sent to examine the earthworks, the report said.

The IDF Spokesman refused to comment on the report.

Minor violations of the 1974 disengagement agreement are commonplace in the Golan. Usually they involve increases in soldiers deployed there.

According to the agreement, each side can request a spot-check by the UN forces, but this is rarely done. The last time such a count was requested was about a year ago, by Damascus, amid fears of a possible surprise attack.



**Checkpoint shooting victim buried**  
Several hundred people attend Mohammed Salameh's funeral yesterday outside Jerusalem's Old City. Salameh was shot and killed by police Monday night after running two northern Jerusalem checkpoints in a stolen van. Story, Page 2.

## US envoy here to discuss Teheran threat Iran missile said near completion

**By STEVE RODAN**

US envoy Robert Gallucci held meetings yesterday with Israeli leaders to coordinate efforts to halt Russia's massive aid to Iran's medium-range ballistic missile program.

The visit comes as US and Israeli experts agree that Iran, with massive aid from Russian advisers and companies, is approaching completion of the development of the engine for the Shihab 3 missile, Israeli sources said.

They said Israeli and US representatives agreed at the semiannual strategic talks outside Washington on March 18 that Teheran's program is reaching a critical stage and that Iran and Russia could complete the missile's engine in the near future and develop a prototype missile by the end of 1999.

Gallucci met with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and discussed Israeli and US assessments of Russian aid to Iran, as well as progress in the missile program.

"There was nothing new," an Israeli source said, referring to the information discussed. "Gallucci is new in the position and he came to learn."

The source said that, despite severe Clinton administration opposition, Israeli leaders have not backed down on their efforts to lobby Congress to impose US sanctions on Russian companies that are participating in the Iranian missile program.

"We will work with everybody - the administration and Congress - to stop this program," the source said.

Gallucci replaced Frank Wisner as US President Bill Clinton's special envoy to Russia on the missile issue. In 1994, Gallucci reached the controversial agreement with North Korea that essentially allowed Pyongyang to keep its nuclear weapons.

"If nothing happens, Iran will be able to test launch its missile toward the end of 1999," a senior Israeli source said. "The Americans agree with this and some say it could even be in 15 months from now."

US defense analysts said the Pentagon agrees with the Israeli assessment on the progress of the Iranian missile program. But US officials disagree with the Israeli assessment that the government of Russian President Boris Yeltsin is supporting the Iranian effort.

The Israeli sources said that, once Iran completes the development of the engine, the missile project is assured of eventual success. They said the engine has been the most difficult stage yet of the Shihab 3 and after its completion, the Iranians could complete the project themselves.

The Shihab 3 is meant to have a range of 1,300 kilometers and a payload of 700 kilograms. The Israeli sources said the missile is based on North Korea's No-Dung missile, but Russia took over from Pyongyang in 1994 after failures in the program's development.

"Somewhere in the near future, this milestone [engine completion] will be reached," a senior Israeli source said. "If the Iranians have an engine, then they can make concessions on other parts of the missile. You might not have the best guidance system, but without an engine, the missile can't fly."

## US said ready to test Lebanon pullout plan

**By HILLEL KUTTLER, DAVID RUDGE and LIAT COLLINS**

The US is "more open" to Israel's proposal to withdraw from southern Lebanon and is "ready to test" the idea, Foreign Ministry deputy director-general Yoav Biran said yesterday.

He said there is also a receptivity to the idea among Arab ambassadors in Washington with whom he met, including those representing countries with whom Israel does not have full diplomatic relations.

Biran concluded three days of meetings in Washington with US Middle East envoy Dennis Ross, Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs Martin Indyk, and National Security Council officials to discuss the proposal.

Biran also met with US ambassadors to the Middle East, who are currently in Washington for a conference.

"There wasn't a complete refusal," Biran said of his talks this week with the Arab envoys. "There was a willingness to listen. Whereas with the Palestinian [impasse], they'd say, 'You're being difficult,' and 'Bibi, Shmibi,' it wasn't the same with [UN Security Council Resolution] 425. ... The Arab states are telling us something they don't say publicly. The Arab reactions were unexpected. Something's happening."

Israel and the US concur that the best avenue to take is "quiet diplomacy" through a gradual process over time, Biran said.

He said Russia, France and several of Israel's Arab interlocutors understand that the proposal is "not a public relations exercise" as they'd first thought, and that Syria and Lebanon are hearing the same message in their diplomatic dealings.

However, a senior IDF intelligence officer told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday that Syria and Lebanon completely reject Israel's interpretation of the resolution and consider it a diplomatic ploy.

Syria fears that IDF withdrawal from south Lebanon will take away the possible use of terror as a bargaining card, he said, adding that Syria is determined to torpedo the Israeli move and is hinting that withdrawal will not end terror activity. Syria believes the issue can be resolved only in the framework of a comprehensive arrangement.

This conflicts with reports that Syria is seeking clarification of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's stand.

Hizbullah is also saying the fight against Israel must continue until it unconditionally withdraws and is warning the Lebanese government not to give Israel any kind of security guarantees.

Deputy Chief of Staff Maj.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz reportedly told the committee that the IDF has had successes this year fighting Hizbullah and as a result Hizbullah has moved towards attacks not involving direct encounters, such as the use of anti-tank missiles, mortars, and firing from a distance.

He praised in particular the Egoz commando unit, which is specially trained to operate in south Lebanon.

See LEBANON, Page 2

## Halevy takes over Mossad today

**By JAY BUSHINSKY**

Efraim Halevy, the former ambassador to the European Union, is due to be installed as the Mossad's new director today, succeeding the outgoing Danny Yatom.

Halevy was selected to replace Yatom because of a series of operational failures including the abortive attempt to assassinate Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal last September in Amman.

OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amir Levine is expected to become Halevy's deputy and to take over from him within two years.

## Next year in Lhasa

**By MARILYN HENRY**

NEW YORK - When Jews sit down at Seders to commemorate their exodus from slavery to freedom, the Tibetans hope they will be remembered as well, with the "matza of hope" and the telling of their travails.

There were dozens of Seders for Tibet across the US last year, including one in Washington. The Dalai Lama, Tibet's exiled spiritual and political leader, sat with Reform movement leaders and US Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer for a Seder that concluded "next year in Lhasa" - Tibet's capital.

Bhuchang Tsering, director of the International Campaign for Tibet, said that Pessah resonates with Tibetans for its spiritual and political significance.

"We Tibetans have always been fascinated with the Jewish experience, especially because we are undergoing a similar experience ourselves. We are seeing how we can preserve our identity in a difficult situation," said Tsering. "Passover is a good opportunity

for us, because of the symbolism of Jews celebrating freedom."

Tibetans also are trying to get the attention - and the advocacy - of the Jewish community, Tsering said. "We are reaching out to a community that was a victim of this experience" of oppression in hopes that it "will feel some kind of moral responsibility to help."

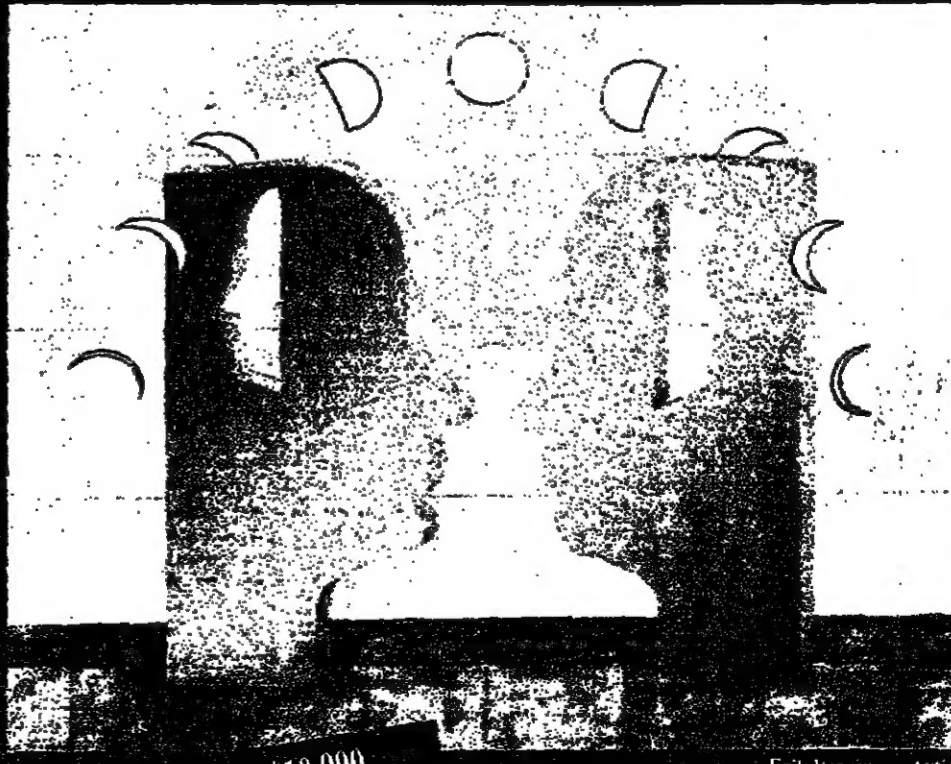
Tsering expects his organization's Web site ([www.savetibet.org](http://www.savetibet.org)) to offer material to add to the Pessah ritual and to supplement the Haggada. A fourth matza could be added as the "matza of hope."

One suggested addition for the Haggada is: "We Jews, who have known persecution, exile, and attempts to annihilate us, reach across the boundaries of geography and culture to another people, so much like us, yet so different."

If more religious organizations come out publicly on behalf of Tibet, Tsering said it would send a political message to the Chinese that Beijing cannot ignore. On the popular level, he said, such advocacy "encourages the Tibetans and gives them hope."

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## NEWS

in brief

## State to pay 60% of Netanyahu's legal bill

The state will pay 60 percent (NIS 150,000 plus VAT) of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's legal bills from the Bar-On affair. This was decided late last night by the special committee, headed by Justice Ministry Director-General Nili Arad, which is empowered to give state funding to public figures who incur legal expenses while carrying out their public duties.

Netanyahu had asked the committee for NIS 300,000, and the attorney-general had earlier expressed an opinion that the prime minister was entitled to a larger than usual refund because his position required more expensive legal counseling.

Netanyahu's attorneys for the Bar-On affair were Ya'acov Weinroth and S. Horowitz. *Batsheva Tsor*

## Neeman panel recommendations approved

The cabinet yesterday approved, by telephone vote, the recommendations of the Neeman Committee on conversions. The only two to vote against the plan were Interior Minister Eliyahu Shalev and Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai of Shas. *Jim*

## Swiss to honor 3 citizens as 'Righteous Gentiles'

Switzerland intends to honor three citizens as "Righteous Gentiles" for saving Jews during the Holocaust. The ceremony is planned for April 27 in the ornate parliament building in Bern.

Israel's ambassador to Switzerland, Yitzhak Meir, will bestow the title. Diplomatic sources in Israel consider the Swiss decision to hold the ceremony in their parliament as a positive and commendable development. *Jay Bushinsky*

## Chief rabbi urges pardon for Meshulam

Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliyahu Bakshi-Doron said yesterday that cult leader Uzi Meshulam - serving a six-and-a-half-year sentence since 1996 for endangering lives, conspiracy, aggravated assault and other charges - should be released from prison. In a pre-Pessah meeting with Prisons Commissioner Amos Azani, Bakshi-Doron said Meshulam should be pardoned on condition he promises not to commit violence in pursuit of his goals.

Azani told the rabbi that, despite Meshulam's many demands, he enjoys excellent treatment by the prison staff. *Jim*

## Officer injured when gun misfires

An IDF officer was moderately injured when a bullet exploded in the barrel of a machine gun at an IDF position in the western sector of the security zone early yesterday morning. The accident apparently happened while the officer was checking the weapon. He was evacuated by helicopter to Haifa's Rambam Hospital. OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amir Levine assigned a colonel to investigate the incident. *David Rudge*

## Hizbullah seeks amnesty for SLA members

Hizbullah said yesterday it would seek parliamentary approval for a proposal to grant amnesty to low-ranking members of the South Lebanon Army. The proposal, first made last year, would grant low-ranking SLA members amnesty if they repented within three months.

Hizbullah parliament deputy Ammar Mousawi said Hizbullah's amnesty proposal was not linked to Israel's conditional offer to withdraw from Lebanon. *Reuters*

## MISSILE

Continued from Page 1

Israeli intelligence and military sources said their main fear is that any Iranian missile, regardless of its accuracy, would embolden Tehran's allies, such as Syria or Islamic fundamentalist groups, to launch an offensive against Israel.

Despite the agreement by the US and Israel on Iranian progress in its missile program, the Clinton administration opposes Israeli efforts to lobby Congress to impose sanctions on Moscow. The Iranian Missile Proliferation Sanctions Act, which already has

passed the House of Representatives and has more than 80 cosponsors in the Senate, would punish Russian companies that transfer missile technology to Iran.

Saying this would hurt Russian President Boris Yeltsin, the White House opposes such legislation and insists that Vice President Al Gore, in his March 11 meeting with then-Russian prime minister Victor Chornomyrdin, achieved significant progress in obtaining Russian government cooperation to stop the technology transfer. But Israeli representatives dispute this and said Russia has actually increased its official support of the Iranian missile program.

## LEBANON

Continued from Page 1

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai yesterday sharply criticized proponents of an unilateral IDF withdrawal from south Lebanon. He stressed that any arrangement has to guarantee the security of the northern border and the safety of South Lebanese Army soldiers and their families.

The minister spoke to reporters during a visit to the Druze village of Mughar to mark Id al-Adha (Feast of the Sacrifice). Later in the day, Mordechai met with EU special envoy to the Middle East Miguel Moratinos and discussed the proposal to withdraw from Lebanon, as well as the peace process.

In another comment on the situation in the North, National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon told Army radio that,

"The harsh terror that is causing both us and the southern Lebanon residents heavy casualties is part of a Syrian effort to put pressure on Israel to accept Syrian demands in negotiations." Sharon added that peace talks with Syria should be kept apart from a proposal to withdraw IDF troops from south Lebanon.

Fighting continued in south Lebanon yesterday, with reports of long-range attacks on IDF and SLA positions. There were no casualties and IDF gunners returned fire.

UN sources revealed that during heavy exchanges on Tuesday two mortar rounds fired by "Lebanese armed elements" from north of the zone struck a UNIFIL position manned by Finnish troops of the international peacekeeping force. There were no casualties in the incident, although some damage was caused.

## Police justify J'm checkpoint shooting

By ELI WOHLGELER and news agencies

Nationalist slogans and threats to Israel accompanied the body of Mohammed Salameh to his burial yesterday, after the 25-year-old was killed late Monday night when he failed to stop at a checkpoint in north Jerusalem.

Some 300 Arabs marched from al-Aksa Mosque atop the Temple Mount to the cemetery just outside the Old City walls, lifting Salameh's partly exposed body while calling him a martyr.

Police had beefed up security in the city, fearing Arab violence would erupt after the funeral, but the funeral procession was relatively peaceful and there were no reports of any disturbances.

The incident, at the A-Ram checkpoint in the north end of the city, occurred when police flagged down Salameh's van because they suspected it was stolen.

When the van failed to stop, police chased it through the city, then opened fire.

Police said a second man fled the vehicle after the shooting and escaped in the direction of Ramallah.

Jerusalem District Police Cmdr. Yair Yitzhaki said the police were justified, because the vehicle "broke through two checkpoints. This was no innocent ride - during the pursuit the car veered into several cars, parked and moving, including one of the pursuers."

Yitzhaki said police aimed for the wheels of the van, but because they were firing from a speeding car ended up hitting the driver.

Yitzhaki pointed out that the van in which the two were driving was stolen from Ashkelon about two months ago. "I can't find any explanation for such a ride at such an hour and under these circumstances," Yitzhaki said.

Following the incident, Arabs in the area began to attack security officials. Stones and a petrol bomb were thrown, and tires were burned.

Several police cars were hit, and Israeli

buses were stoned outside the Old City. Reinforcements were deployed in the area. When Yitzhaki arrived at the scene, his vehicle was bombarded with stones, and he was injured in the hand. He was treated and released from Hadassah-University Hospital in Ein Kerem.

Police and security agencies have been on heightened alert throughout the country, and particularly in the capital, following Hamas threats to carry out a terror attack to coincide with Pessah and to avenge the killing last week of bombmaker Muhi Sharif.

In a separate incident Monday night, police said they believed two Palestinians arrested may have been intending to kidnap soldiers. Police said they found a pistol, a toy gun, stocking masks and handcuffs in the men's car. The two had their remand extended by nine days yesterday.

Regarding the Salameh incident, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said the police "did exactly what they are ordered to do. He should have obeyed the order to stop. The result is unpleasant that a

man was killed, but if he had wanted to stay alive, it is reasonable to assume that he needed to stop and follow orders."

A spokesman for the Justice Ministry, which has launched its own investigation, said Salameh was apparently trying to evade police because he did not have a driver's license, and the van was not supposed to be on the road.

Salameh's family told Israel Radio that he was on his way to visit his wife, and disputed the police account.

"They caught up with him and shot him," said Nader Salameh, Mohammed's brother. "They shot him although he had stopped, not while the car was moving."

One Palestinian witness told reporters at the scene of Salameh's killing that the shooting was a "clear assassination. When the man stopped, the soldier came round and pointed his M-16 at him. It was a clear assassination. The man had his hand raised and they shot him," the witness, who did not give his name, told Abu Dhabi Television.

## Mofaz calls on PA to do more against terror

By LIAT COLLINS

The IDF remains on high alert, particularly over the holiday season, and there is no reason to believe that Hamas has lost its motivation to carry out attacks following the death of Muhi Sharif, Deputy Chief of General Staff Maj.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz said yesterday.

Speaking with reporters after addressing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Mofaz said Hamas still blames Israel for Sharif's death despite statements by the Palestinian Authority that Israel was not involved.

Nevertheless, Mofaz said, the PA could do more to combat terror.

"We have the impression the Palestinian Authority is not doing all it can to fight terror, neither its infrastructure nor to thwart [attacks]. We think there should be much more comprehensive, determined, and ongoing activity," he said.

Mofaz reportedly told the MKs that it is clear the PA is not doing all it could, particularly when its activity today is compared to what it did following the wave of terror in February and March 1996.

The PA is taking action to thwart specific events it learns of, but this is localized activity, Mofaz said. There is a certain degree of cooperation between the PA and Israel on this, but it is doing relatively little to deal with the terrorist infrastructure.

Committee members argued over the extent of PA activity, following a dispute which reportedly took place at Sunday's cabinet meeting. General Security Service head Ami Ayalon had told the cabinet that the PA is fighting terror, but the prime minister and others said the PA is not doing enough.

At yesterday's meeting MK Ran Cohen (Meretz) said: "The IDF would be deluded to think the Palestinians will uproot the Hamas civil infrastructure."

MK Ze'ev (Benny) Begin (Likud) said it is ironic that the Left now says the Palestinians will not fight terror, which was the basis of the Oslo Accords, when this is what he and other MKs on the Right have said from the start.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid accused the prime minister of placing unprecedented pressure on the intelligence forces to supply information which suited its assumptions, rather than the facts on the ground.

Ariel O'Sullivan adds: Speaking during a holiday visit with Beduin in the Negev, OC Southern Command Maj.-Gen. Yomtov Samia praised the cooperation between the IDF and the Palestinian Authority.

"We are in daily contact in the field and the commanders are doing their jobs well with the Palestinian Police," Samia said.



EU intervention

EU Middle East envoy Miguel Moratinos (left) shakes hands with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai at a meeting yesterday in Tel Aviv, where they discussed Israel's proposed pullout from Lebanon and the peace process. *(Reuters)*

## Molcho to brief US officials in Washington

## Ross to visit region after Pessah

By JAY BUSHINSKY and HILLET KUTTNER

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's decision to send his legal adviser, Yitzhak Molcho, to Washington was prompted by a desire to update US officials about Israeli policy with regard to the next IDF redeployment in the West Bank as it has been evolving in the latest sessions of the inner cabinet.

The Molcho trip would not have come up had US peace envoy Dennis Ross returned to Israel this week. The Jerusalem Post learned.

However, Ross had to be in Washington to brief President Bill Clinton on Monday and this would not have allowed enough time for him to undertake another Middle East shuttle before the onset of Pessah.

Clinton, who returned to Washington a few days ago from a long visit to Africa, received a full briefing from Ross at the White House on Monday night on his just-completed trip to the Middle East. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and national security advisor Sandy Berger also participated in the session.

Netanyahu's preference was that Ross be in Israel during the intensive discussions he has been conducting with the inner cabinet, which consists of Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon and Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky.

In an apparent bid to accommodate Netanyahu and get the Israeli-Palestinian track of the regional peace process moving again, the State Department reportedly announced in Washington that

Ross will be returning to the region the week of April 19.

Netanyahu's approach in recent meetings has been to refrain from mentioning percentages of the West Bank which might be evacuated by IDF personnel. He evidently also has urged the cabinet members to refrain from mentioning any percentages for the time being.

Netanyahu concedes that the negotiating process has shifted from bilateral talks between Israeli and Palestinian representatives to parallel but separate discussions that both sides hold with American intermediaries such as Ross. He blames this on the Palestinian Authority in general and on PA Chairman Yasser Arafat in particular, contending that they evidently assumed that they could do better by trying to convince the Americans of their needs and relying on them to bring Israel around.

Netanyahu believes this is a tactical error and detects a change of heart in the Palestinians to the extent that they may be beginning to realize that the Americans cannot necessarily produce what they seek.

On Monday night, Congress sent out its fourth, and presumably final, letter to the administration on the stalled peace process. This letter to Clinton calls on the US to remain engaged in the process but to refrain from imposing its own solutions. It was authored by Congressman Sam Gejdenson and signed by 32 others, including House Democratic leader Richard Gephardt.

Many of the signatories, including Gephardt, also signed last week's House letter that called on Clinton not to publicly present the

American proposals for breaking the deadlock, stating that doing so would be interpreted as coercing Israel to make concessions on the next redeployment.

"We must never presume to pressure Israel, but instead we must use respectful, steady-handed diplomacy to move the process forward," the Gejdenson letter states. "At this juncture, as at many turning points in the past, American leadership in the peace process could once again prove decisive."

"That is why we support your continuing efforts to build bridges. Rather than attempting to dictate a solution, you are helping to create the conditions for progress, by suggesting ideas for breaking the impasse, and urging restraint and realism."

An aide to Gejdenson said yesterday that the letter was already in the works last week and was not meant to counterbalance last week's letters. Gejdenson wrote because he did not want Clinton "to feel unappreciated for his efforts on the Middle East peace process" because the tone of the other letters was "not supportive of the administration."

Lamia Lahoud adds: PA officials say the American plan is the only way out of the current deadlock. They said although

neither side likes the US formula, it is a viable way to get Israel to withdraw and would eliminate the security issue as a "pretext" for staying put.

Netanyahu advisor David Bar-Ilan said the PA is trying to get the US plan published as a means to avoid direct talks with Israel.

According to a well-informed source, Israel would not give up its control over security in Area C when it transfers 13-14 percent of this area to the PA. In the past, the PA demanded that Area C be added to Area A, which it controls in toto. But a high-ranking PA official said it might be better if parts of Area C became Area B, in which both sides share responsibility for security. Most of the land in question was said to be in the Nablus-Jenin area.

## SOCIAL &amp; PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the Yeha, King David street. Dan Meridor MK will speak on "The National Agenda."

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## Levy blames PM for trying to 'rip Gesher apart'

By SARAH HONIG

Gesher leader MK David Levy yesterday threatened that his faction would bring down the gov-

ernment if Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu persists in efforts to "rip Gesher apart."

Levy spoke at a meeting with the Gesher council to toast the

Pessah holiday and to ratify the new joint Gesher-Meretz list running in the Histadrut elections scheduled in June.

Levy charged that Netanyahu was "deliberately and knowingly seeking for quite a long time to bring about Gesher's disintegration." His comments were seen as referring to Likud efforts to bring Gesher MK David Magen back to the fold. Magen had bolted the Likud prior to the 1996 elections, even before Levy's walkout. He later joined Levy's Gesher venture.

It had been an open secret, however, that Magen has been growing frustrated in Gesher. He is consistently left out of the decision-making inner sanctum and has been pushed away from Levy

by his brother MK Maxim Levy.

Things came to a head recently when Magen came out forcefully against the partnership with Meretz charging that "it would deliver a mortal blow to Gesher. Our voters are all Likud-oriented and they would not forgive us a political marriage which they would consider treason. The Histadrut elections are not important enough to risk a rout in the next Knesset elections."

Magen refused to accept the deal even after considerable pressure from the Levys and the word in the Likud was that he was not longer personally as hostile to him as he had been.

Magen himself has publicly recommended to Gesher that it

rejoin the Likud rather than strike out in a partnership with Meretz.

All this, say Gesher sources, has angered Levy, who is sure that Netanyahu is out to steal one of his five MKs and diminish Gesher's influence.

"If attempts to rip Gesher apart are not ceased forthwith," he warned last night, "then Gesher will do its utmost to bring down the government. Those who are trying to break Gesher are playing with fire."

Meanwhile, Avigdor Lieberman, the former director-general of the prime minister's office, urged Netanyahu to call Science Minister Michael Eitan to order for charging that Lieberman "is behaving as if the Likud were his private business."

With deep sorrow we announce the untimely passing of our beloved **ROSIE (SHOSHANA) EFRATI** (née Slusznay) at the age of seventy. The funeral will take place today, Wednesday, April 8, 1998 (12 Nissan 5758), at the Bustan Hagall cemetery, at 4 p.m. Mourned by: Efrati family, Bustan Hagall Slusznay families, Nahariya Mayer family, Cape Town

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# TAAS may produce Uzis in US to circumvent new gun law

By STEVE RODAN

TAAS-Israel Industries, banned from exporting a semiautomatic version of the Uzi submachine gun into the US, is now exploring the prospect of producing the weapon through an American company.

TAAS executives said production of the Uzi in the US would circumvent the executive order issued by US President Bill Clinton on Monday that permanently barred the import of 58 assault weapons that were modified for sport shooting.

The modification was a loophole through which thousands of foreign-made assault rifles found their way into the US despite a 1994 ban.

TAAS spent millions of dollars in the development and marketing of the Uzi American and Galiil Sporter.

The company, which sold an estimated 250,000 Uzis during the 1970s and 1980s, changed the weapon by disabling its automatic fire and extending its barrel so it could not be shot from the hip.

TAAS had been expecting Clinton to close the loophole and has considered several options. One is to find a US manufacturer to produce the Uzis and Galiils should the White House ban them from import.

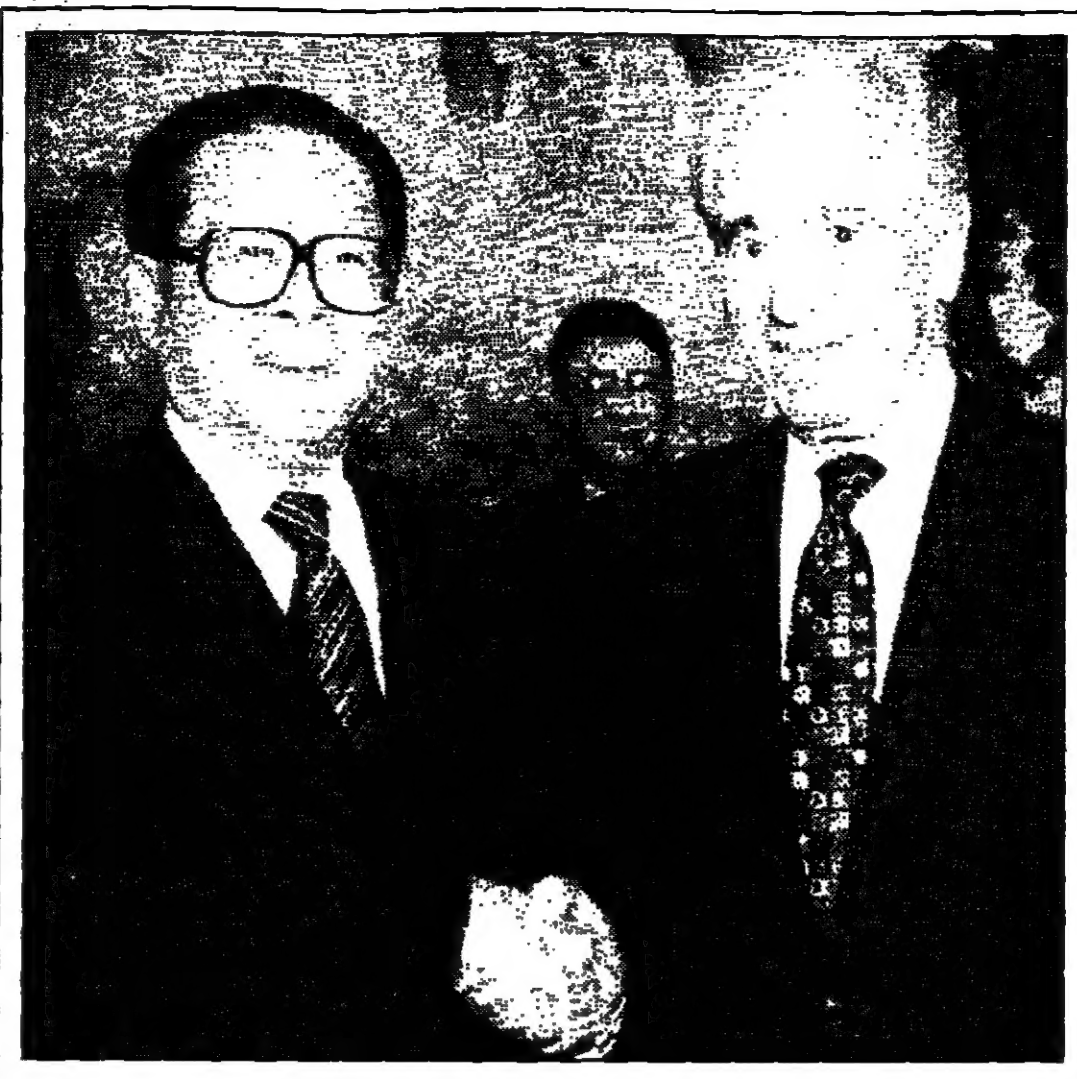
"We have been following this issue closely, and I can't say there were any surprises," a TAAS executive said.

Under an agreement, Mossberg, a New York firearms company, was to have marketed and distributed the Uzis and Galiils.

Now, TAAS executives are considering negotiating with several companies, including Mossberg, for the production of the semiautomatic weapons.

"Mossberg seems to be the favorite at this point," a defense industry source said. "It's an experienced company and large as well."

TAAS spokesman Roni Wolf said the company "will respect US law. We are studying the issue and will take time to set a new strategy. We are examining the possibilities."



**Peres in Beijing**  
Chinese President Jiang Zemin welcomes MK Shimon Peres to Beijing yesterday. Jiang praised the former prime minister for his efforts to advance the peace process, according to an official summation of the meeting. (AP)

# Plan to increase health-fund fees goes to Knesset panel today

By JUDY SIEGEL

A family of five will pay up to NIS 55 a month in extra fees to their health funds and up to NIS 160 per quarter for visiting medical specialists and hospital outpatient clinics, according to a detailed Health Ministry plan.

The proposal, reached after hearing requests from the four public health funds, will be presented today to the Knesset Finance Committee for approval. If it passes, the health funds will start charging members in June.

All residents already pay 4.8% of their monthly gross income in health taxes, and many opt for supplementary health insurance, plus extra for dental care, medications, or geriatric nursing care. But due to the NIS 1.4 billion operating deficit of the national health insurance system, the government is demanding that direct fees be paid as well.

Adults will pay NIS 20 each a month, and a child NIS 5 - thus a family of five will pay NIS 55 a month extra. There are to be no extra charges for four or more children, and those in the lowest socioeconomic groups will be exempt from payment.

The ministry plan also sets a NIS 20 fee over a period of three months for a visit to each health fund doctor who is not one's primary physician, and NIS 20 for a visit to a hospital outpatient clinic. But the ceiling for this will be NIS 140 to NIS 160 for each three-month period.

The cost to consumers of prescription drugs subsidized by the health funds will increase by 30%, according to the ministry proposal, but those designated as chronically ill will pay up to NIS 120 per quarter.

The ministry did not explain how the health funds and doctors will know when each patient has reached the ceiling figure.

If the Knesset committee turns down the proposal, the Health Ministry spokesman said he does not know what would happen, as the Prime Minister's Office and the Treasury have rejected Health Minister Yehoshua Matza's original request for an increase in progressive health taxes to 5.5% of monthly income.

## RUSSIAN PRESS REVIEW

By YOSEF BEGUN

### Between a rock and a hard place

Regarding the tensions between Israel and the Palestinians, Dimitri Laduzinsky, editor-in-chief of *Novosti Nedeli* writes that:

"The conflict between the two nations has now become even more aggravated than at the beginning of the intifada."

The crucial questions, he stresses, are "where will the ultimate border be? What will the Palestinian Authority be like? What will be the fate of Jerusalem?" He concludes that "the time for discussing percentages is over. It's time to make a choice... we have to choose the shore on which we want to dock."

Rivka Rabinovich writes in *Vremya* about the increasing activity of Netanyahu's opponents in his coalition. Third Way MKs have given Netanyahu an ultimatum to carry out the second redeployment soon or they will leave the government.

There is some doubt about the seriousness of this threat, Rabinovich says. "We did not hear that Third Way leader Avigdor Kahalani, a minister in Netanyahu's government, voted even once against the steps of his government which, according to public opinion, caused 'such a grave policy.'"

On the other hand, Netanyahu is threatened by the Land of Israel Front, whose members are demanding accelerated building in Har Homa.

Netanyahu has no choice but to maneuver between threats from both sides and try to neutralize them, concludes Rabinovich.

In *24 Hours*, Mark Kuperman writes about two American camps regarding negotiations with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat. "The one headed by Dennis Ross is pro-Israel. The second, headed by former US ambassador to Israel Martin Indyk, is anti-Israel," Kuperman writes.

He says that Ross has generally accepted the idea that

### Non-kosher meat

A controversial law, supported by MKs of Yisrael Ba'aliya, which forbids the import of non-kosher meat, is described by Alex Yachot in *Novosti Nedeli* as another non-democratic action by the religious establishment, this time dictating "what to eat" to the majority non-religious population.

Such a law, he says, could even bring about sanctions from other countries because it violates international law against prohibiting the import of the same kinds of goods produced in this country.

He called the position of Yisrael Ba'aliya MKs on this issue "cowardly, shameful, unprincipled," adding that it "casts a shadow on all of us."

MK Yuri Stern, in the same paper, writes that the meat law was passed as a result of a "very positive compromise between Yisrael Ba'aliya and the religious parties."

The compromise includes preserving a basic law which provides for freedom of enterprise, which is the right of citizens to conduct all kinds of business and is in the interest of new immigrants, he says.

The new meat law will not cause a closure of (non-kosher) "Russian shops", so anybody who wants it can have non-kosher meat - produced locally.

Stern asserts that the members of Yisrael Ba'aliya "don't want to fight ideological wars with religion and traditions; rather, we want to provide progress in science, technology, culture - in other words, in the spheres where we can contribute our intellectual and professional abilities."

## Mordechai ignores pullback-or-quit pledge

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai shrugged off the vow he took three months ago to leave the government if it did not implement the second IDF redeployment in the West Bank by yesterday, April 7.

"The redeployment will take place soon," Mordechai said, without going into any detail.

Mordechai told an Israel Radio interviewer that he was staying at his post, because his fellow ministers had decided on the second troop pullback required by the Oslo Accords. This was in no small measure because of his threat to quit if the withdrawal issue were left in abeyance, he said.

"If there had been no decision on the second redeployment, I would not be a member of the government today," Mordechai said. "I believe the subject is on the government's agenda and that there are ways to bridge the gap that exists today between us and the Americans, and I assume among the Americans and Palestinians and us. I feel that everyone is making an intensive effort to find a way to move the agreements forward and to accomplish our common goal."

Despite Mordechai's mild-sounding rhetoric, political

observers said his threat to resign was not meant as a serious alternative.

Liat Collins adds: MK Ophir Pines (Labor) this week sent Mordechai a letter telling him it was time for him to decide to stand by his word and resign.

Pines said three months had passed since he said he would resign if the redeployment were not carried out, and still nothing had happened.

"You have to decide whether you want to deceive yourself and remain in a government which is taking us to the brink of the abyss or whether you resign and try to put the State of Israel back on the path of peace," Pines wrote.

Pines said Mordechai's only chance of having an impact is by resigning rather than trying to influence the government from within.

## Spring in KKL-JNF Forests

Keren Kayemeth Lelsrael-Jewish National Fund invites you during the Passover holidays to enjoy its forests, parklands, special activities and events all over the country.

### • Holiday Treks

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Starting point for short, 8 km. family route, between 7:00 and 9:30 a.m. at Poriya Youth Hostel, via Ein Poriya and Beit HaMotor along the Sea of Galilee coastline, ending up at Tzemach Beach.

Starting point for medium 12-km. walk, between 7:00 and 9:30 a.m., at Mahzevot Kinneret (Sea of Galilee quaries), via Swis Forest, Poriya Youth Hostel, Ein Poriya, Beit HaMotor, ending up at Tzemach Beach.

Starting point for long 20 km. walk (for groups and good walkers) between 7:00 and 9:30 a.m., at Upper Poriya, via Kinneret Mahzevot (Sea of Galilee quaries), Swis Forest, Poriya Youth Hostel, Ein Poriya, Beit HaMotor, ending up at Tzemach Beach.

Organized transportation for ticket buyers in special buses from Tzemach Junction to the different starting points, from 6:30 a.m.

### • Spring Events

**British Park**  
At Sarigim Recreation Area, from Yeshayahu Junction to Moshav Luzit. Road No. 353 (between Beit Covin).

**Monday 2nd day Hol HaMo'ed 13.4.98**  
Family activities between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and free tours of the park leaving from the activity area between 10:00 and 11:00 a.m.  
Tours include 1/2 hour walks and 2-3 hour drives in private vehicles along paved and dirt roads.

### • Free Guided Tours

**Sunday-Wednesday, 1st-4th days of Hol HaMo'ed, 12-15.4.98 Routes:**  
Rabin Park - Burma Road, Shaar HaGai, Forgers of Jerusalem Memorial and Conroy Ridge. Duration: about 3 hours. Meeting point: Mikze Harel (between Nahshon and Shimon Junctions).  
Departure times: 10:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m.  
Beit Kama Junction - to Lahav Forest Lookouts and Joe Alon Center.  
Departure times: 11:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m.  
Shoket Junction - to Yair Scenic Route. Departure times: 11:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m.  
Yad Mordechai Junction - to old Beter and the ANZAC Memorial.  
Departure times: 11:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m.  
Eshkol National Park - to Besor Scenic Route. Departure times: 11:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m.  
Mashabbim Junction - to Golda Park and Holot Nature Reserve.  
Departure times: 11:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m.  
Sde Boker College - to David and Paula Ben-Gurion's graveside. Departure times: 11:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m.  
Dimona Paz Gas Station - to Maale Akabim and Arava agriculture. Departure times: 11:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m.  
Avdat National Park - to town of Avdat. Departure times: 11:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m.

All tours are by private vehicles. Some include dirt roads suited to private vehicles.

The Negev walks are in partnership with the Israel Information Center, the Nature Preservation and the National Parks Authorities, The Negev Tourism Development Company and Keren Kayemeth Lelsrael - Jewish National Fund.

### • Information Stations will operate

Sunday-Wednesday, 5th-4th days of Hol HaMo'ed, 12-15.4.98 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the following sites:

**In the North:** Ein Zeitim Recreation Area, Lavi Forest Active Recreation Area, HaZorea Recreation Area in Menashe Forests, Shaar Gilboa-Nurit, Mahanayim Junction, Colani Junction, Tzemach Junction, Orhan HaCarmel (Eyalim Junction).

**In the Center:** Ayalon-Canada Park, Ben Shimon Forest (Gimzu Junction), Tank Corps Museum at Latrun, Haas Promenade in Jerusalem, Sataf (upper parking lot), British Park (northern entrance, about 1 km. west of Zecharya Junction).

**In the South:** Beit Kama Junction, Shoket Junction, Yad Mordechai Junction, Eshkol National Park, Mashabbim Junction, Abraham's Well (Beersheba), Sde Boker College, Dimona Paz Gas Station, Avdat National Park.

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## Northern police chief Alik Ron says he won't resign Police defend handling of Beduin unrest

By DAVID RUDGE  
and ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Northern region police chief Cmdr. Alik Ron said yesterday that he would not resign despite the criticism about how police handled Shabbat protests near Shfar'am in which dozens of people were injured.

Ron also told reporters in Haifa that Husein Heyb, the head of the Beduin village of Tuba, was under tremendous pressure to cancel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's planned visit there today for the Id al-Adha holiday.

He said that Heyb was told he would be considered a traitor if he went through with plans to honor Netanyahu.

The police commander added that reinforcements were on hand to help protect the prime minister when he visits the village which is near Rosh Pina.

Referring to Saturday's unrest that erupted when police moved in on protesters who were trying to rebuild three Beduin homes wrecked in the village of Umm Sahali, Ron said that the officers responded with force after being stoned and assaulted by demonstrators. Stones also were thrown at passing vehicles on the main road linking Haifa and Nazareth, he said.

Ron also stressed that police had intervened to prevent the reconstruction of homes which were demolished by court order.

But he did not rule out that some officers may have deviated from the rules. There were reports that a reporter's arm was broken during the riots. Any complaints lodged will be investigated, Ron said.

He also would not be opposed to a commission of inquiry, although he did not believe one was necessary.

Israeli Arab leaders have accused the police of provoking the disturbances. They have called for Ron's dismissal and a commission of inquiry into events surrounding the violence.

There has also been criticism of the Interior Ministry's handling of the matter and the timing of the decision to implement the demolition order.

The houses were knocked down last Thursday, on the eve of Id al-Adha, provoking a wave of anger among Israeli Arabs, who staged a general strike and a protest march on Monday.



Alik Ron (Stein/Haran)

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, who visited the Druze village Mughar yesterday in honor of the Moslem holiday, said of the events in Shfar'am:

"I want to study the issue in more detail and I intend during the intermediate days [of Pessah] to take time to do this... and also put forward proposals over the best steps to take."

## Beduin youth suspected of stealing IDF ammo

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The Military Police has launched a massive search for stolen IDF ammunition in the Beduin village of Tuba, where Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is scheduled to visit today, the IDF confirmed yesterday.

A number of Beduin youth already have been arrested on suspicion of sneaking into an IDF base in the North and stealing a large amount of ammunition, including phosphorous grenades, 52 mm. mortar shells, and heavy and light arms ammunition.

Some of the ammunition has been recovered, but the rest has either been sold or hidden, military sources said. The sources confirmed last night that Military Police are focusing the investigation on recovering the ammunition.

According to Tim, Beduin youths from Tuba have been sneaking into a nearby IDF base

"I hope that a ministerial team will be established to examine the entire matter relating to Israel's minority communities and to deal with the issues in a comprehensive, rather than a pinpoint, manner."

"At the same time, I cannot accept that a Jew, Arab, Druze or anybody else will act illegally," Mordechai added.

In a related development, OC Southern Command Maj.-Gen. Yom-Tov Samia said yesterday that despite the latest tensions with the Beduin, there has not been a decline in numbers of Arab youths signing up for the IDF.

In fact there are more volunteers than needed, Samia said during a holiday visit with Beduin of the Abu Soud tribe, many of whose sons serve in the IDF.

"We have today three times the number of requests to serve in the permanent force of the [Beduin] battalion than we can sign on," Samia said. "The regular companies are full. We have hundreds of fighters in this battalion."

for an extended period of time. They then made their way to an unguarded and open bunker where they were able to steal an "unprecedented amount" of ammunition.

Rosh Pina police commander Ch.-Supt. Yoram Malul said that he could not remember this much ammunition being stolen from the IDF "since I have been serving in the region."

The youths arrested reportedly confessed to the thefts and said they sneaked into the base at night by crawling under the fence.

According to a preliminary investigation, reservists had been responsible for guarding the bunker and it is still not clear how such a large amount of munitions was able to be stolen over an extended period of time and why there had not been an inventory count taken.

The IDF said that results of the investigation will be handed over to the army prosecutor for possible courts martial.



## More industry for capital

President Ezer Weizman cuts the ribbon last night inaugurating the Beck Science Center in Jerusalem's Har Hotzvim industrial area. The \$35 million building includes 21,000 square meters for high-tech industry. Weizman is flanked by Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert (left) and donor Graham Beck of South Africa and his wife, Rhona. (Isaac Haran)

## PM, organizers must explain to court non-funding of jubilee peace fete

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

The prime minister and the organizers of Israel's jubilee events were yesterday given nine days by the High Court of Justice to explain why they are not prepared to fund a 50th anniversary celebration planned by the Organization of Peace Movements in Israel.

The peace movements had petitioned the court, saying that the refusal to grant them funding smacked of "political motives." They noted that the 50th anniversary celebrations of Hebron, which coincide with the jubilee, are

receiving state funds, but that the peace movements had been told there is no more money in the state coffers.

The peace movements had asked the government to cover 50% of the NIS 200,000 cost of the event, spokesman Boaz Lieberman said.

In yesterday's interim injunction, Justices Theodor Orr, Michael Heshin, and Ya'acov Turkel said the state must explain by April 16 what its criteria are for funding the various jubilee events.

State representative Yehuda Shefer said the peace groups' request had reached the organiz-

ing committee "too late." The horses had already bolted the stable," he said, and there is no more money for the request. However, Shefer admitted that, even had there been enough money, the peace movements' request may have been turned down "because of its political color."

He argued that it was "an inhuman burden" on the organizers to have to answer the petition at such short notice. The court nevertheless scheduled its next session for April 19. The peace movements are planning to hold their event on April 30.

## Suspect remanded for killing sister

By DAVID RUDGE

A 20-year-old from Galilee has been arrested on suspicion of murdering his 17-year-old sister for the sake of "family honor." The results of an autopsy, however, revealed that the girl was a virgin.

Acne Magistrate's Court remanded the man, from Ein el-Asad, a Druze village in Galilee, for 15 days yesterday.

Originally, the teen's death was reported as a suicide because she had been suffering from psycho-

logical problems. Inquiries by detectives from the Galilee district headquarters in Acre indicated that it was unlikely that the girl had taken her own life.

Members of the family were questioned and one of her brothers was detained after it transpired that there had been arguments over her relationship with a young man from another village.

Police said the brother later admitted that he had entered her bedroom and suffocated her. He then reconstructed the murder in

front of police, tell them that his sister's behavior was an affront to him and the rest of the family.

Northern region police commander Alik Ron said this was the 16th murder in the North since the beginning of January, following that of a man who was shot to death in Afula on Monday night.

Ron said that the motives for the murders ranged from domestic disputes and so-called family honor, to crimes of passion, some among homosexuals, and under-world or drug-related killings.

## Britain's Arab lobby to close in July

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON - The debt-ridden pro-Arab lobby in Britain, established immediately after the Six Day War, is experiencing "extremely difficult financial circumstances" and is planning to close down in July.

An emergency meeting of the Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding (CAABU) has been called for April 22 to ratify a decision that would see the dismissal of the entire professional staff and the conversion of the organization to a purely voluntary body.

Sir Cyril Townsend, former parliamentarian and current director of the lobby, said the likely demise of CAABU "now means there will be no full-time body in Britain working to promote Arab interests and an understanding of the Arab world in parliament, in government, the media, and in schools - just when it is most needed."

The lobby's last gasp is an attempt to influence the visit to Israel by British Prime Minister Tony Blair later this month to mark the 50th anniversary of the state.

The lobby has called on its supporters to urge Blair not to visit holy sites in Jerusalem "under the auspices and control of Israeli officials" or to attend any events in Jerusalem that are designed to mark Israel's anniversary.

They should also urge Blair to "reemphasize the government's opposition to settlements and other actions which preempt final status negotiations," notably the plan to expand the municipal boundaries of Jerusalem and to carry out "substantial redeployments of Israeli forces in the West Bank."

## Vote on new license plate postponed

By DAVID HARRIS

The Knesset Economic Affairs Committee yesterday failed to approve a Transport Ministry proposal to add the Israeli flag and the letters IL to vehicle license plates.

A vote on the issue was postponed for three weeks yesterday after Transport Minister Shaul Yaalon (NRP) and MK Anat Maor (Meretz) got into a heated row over the validity of the move. Maor recommended the committee hear more opinions, including those of Arabs, before it makes a decision. She argued that this should not be a gesture for the

50th Independence Day celebrations but a carefully considered move, similar to the decision to display flags outside schools. (The debate over putting flags in schools lasted five years.)

"You are not a Zionist if you are not prepared to display a flag on your car," Yaalon shouted at Maor.

In postponing the meeting, committee Chairman Avi Yehzekel (Labor) said he supports the proposal.

If approved, the new regulation only would apply to new vehicles. The cost of number plates would increase from NIS 75 to NIS 85, according to the ministry.

## Where to eat in Israel

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# Holy Sepulchre 'firetrap' for pilgrims

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre will be a potentially serious fire hazard when thousands of visitors flock to the site during the upcoming Easter celebrations, a Religious Affairs Ministry official said yesterday.

Ministry officials have appealed to "neutral elements" for help in gaining approval for the opening of another entrance to the church, at least in time for next year's millennium, to alleviate the firetrap that exists at the holy site.

Uri Mor, director of the ministry's Department of Christian Communities, called the situation at the church "catastrophic," noting that the building has only one

entrance and exit. Only about 15,000 people can be accommodated in the church at any one time, and since most of those who enter also light candles, the potential fire hazard is tremendous, Mor explained.

Outlining the ministry's preparations to accommodate Christian religious services in Jerusalem in the coming weeks, Mor said during ceremonies like the Orthodox churches' Holy Fire Ceremony, which is to take place at the church on Saturday, April 18, when the building is packed, the lack of additional entrances or exits poses serious problems.

He said that at the time of the Crusaders, there had been 12 entrances to the church, but these

had been sealed over time. One such corridor had been found recently, he said, which exits in Dir Al Sultan, the roof of St. Helena Chapel, atop the church.

"I... asked the Ethiopian patriarch to allow us to open it for Holy Fire Day," Mor said. "He told me, 'OK, but what's in it for me?'"

However, representatives of the Copts, who have an ongoing dispute with the Ethiopians over the ownership of the site, have so far opposed any such deal.

According to a status quo agreement between the various communities claiming control of various parts of the church, only the Israeli government is allowed to make repairs or improvements at the site.

Preparations for the Easter holiday being made by the government include bringing in about 1,000 police to keep order outside and around the church, and the setting up of three sites where pilgrims unable to enter the church will be able to view ceremonies on closed-circuit television. Some 10,000 pilgrims are expected from Greece and Cyprus alone, he said, a 33% drop from last year.

Mor said that the Palestinian Authority was unlikely to encourage any kind of violence during the holiday period, since it wants to attract as many pilgrims as possible to Bethlehem next year for millennium celebrations.

However, he said that the fact that the Pessah holiday coincides with Christian and Moslem celebrations means there will be many people in the Old City's narrow streets during this period, making for potential flashpoints.

Outlining preparations being made for the millennium celebrations, Mor said that while no official word had been received regarding a papal visit, "I have preliminary indications that there is a possibility he will indeed come."

Since a papal visit to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre would require negotiations between the various Christian communities, "we will know of such a visit way in advance," he said.

## Latin patriarch assails Israeli 'siege'

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN and news agencies

Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah yesterday called on his community to "remember" in their prayers the difficult situation imposed upon their brothers and sisters in the Palestinian towns, where freedom remains limited and where the siege imposed upon them is curtailing life and condemning it to a slow death.

In an Easter message, Sabbah said that "in our joy and prayer, we cannot forget the suffering which is increasing for all day after day, because of the absence of peace... The promise of total freedom remains a pure promise. In the meantime, the fabric of society is beginning to disintegrate. Suffering, death, and emigration are going on, and prisoners are waiting in their prisons to be given back their freedom and dignity."

Responding to questions at a press conference in Jerusalem, the Roman Catholic leader, who is himself a Palestinian and who will say Easter Mass at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre on Sunday, said of Israel: "If they wanted peace, as they are strong enough to make peace they could have peace. If peace isn't realized it means the intentions are not right. If Israel agrees to a Palestinian state this will be the solution."

Sabbah's remarks drew a rebuke from Uri Mor, director of the Religious Affairs Ministry's Department of Christian Communities, who accused him of "spending at least as much time dealing in politics as he deals in religion."

"He is a very good personal friend of mine, but we have a difference of opinion about what the capacity of a patriarch in Jerusalem should be," Mor said. "We think that a religious leader like a patriarch should deal more with theological and religious affairs, and not political affairs. The Latin patriarch, as some other Palestinian religious leaders, is dealing at least as much with politics as with religion."

"The situation of the Christians is very well known," Mor said. "You have only to refer to what happened to the Maronites in Lebanon and the Copts in Egypt to understand what the fate of the Christians is in the Moslem world."

He noted that in 1947, the British Mandate census had found 28,000 Christians living in Jerusalem, while in 1967, there were only 11,000 left, meaning 17,000 had left while the city was under Jordanian control. Bethlehem had also been "Islamized," he said, "and no patriarch and no one else can hide it."

He criticized Sabbah for misleading the public by wearing the hat of a politician at certain times, and the hat of the patriarch at others.



Netanyahu visits Yad Sarah

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu chats with a Yad Sarah worker as his wife, Sarah, looks on during a visit to the organization's new facility in Jerusalem's Beit Hakerem neighborhood yesterday. Netanyahu praised the organization for its work with the ill, noting that when his wife had broken her leg, it lent her a wheelchair and walking stick. (Brian Hender)

## Generali Holocaust case opens

By JOHN PACENTI

BAL HARBOR, Florida (AP) — A Holocaust survivor testified that he was thrown out of the offices of Italian insurance company Assicurazioni Generali 43 years ago when he went to collect on policies of relatives who died in Nazi concentration camps.

Adolf Stern, 82, is the first Holocaust victim to give a deposition in a \$135 million lawsuit brought by his family.

The policies taken out by Stern's father, Mor, were recently discovered in a company warehouse.

The Czech immigrant lost his father, mother, wife and 11-month-old son to the gas chamber at Auschwitz. He was eventually freed by US forces from another

concentration camp.

His first act of freedom was to visit the Prague offices of Assicurazioni Generali to collect on life insurance claims believed to be worth \$1.5m.

"They asked me for the death certificate. I said, 'Hitler don't give death certificates,'" Stern recalled softly on Monday. "I sat there and I was crying because they treat me like dirt. When they see I don't want to go, so they kicked me out."

Stern spoke after the two-hour deposition in which most of the questions were asked by his family's lawyers.

The deposition was videotaped in Miami Beach, because Stern is recovering from open heart surgery. He splits his time between

Florida and New York City.

A Generali lawyer said the lawsuit is not valid because the company's offices in Czechoslovakia were taken over by communist forces and nationalized.

"State insurance companies that took Generali's assets have never returned the policy holders' reserves," M. Scott Vayer said. "Generali supports the efforts of its former policy holders, their heirs and loved ones."

The company has established an \$12m. philanthropic fund in honor of Generali policyholders who perished in the Holocaust. It says it will help the Sterns sue the Czech government. The first advertisements for applications to the fund appeared in *The Jerusalem Post* this week.



Gidi Gov (Jonathan Bloom)

## Court blocks unauthorized sale of Gidi Gov songs

By GALIT LIPOK BECK

The Tel Aviv District Court yesterday issued a temporary injunction against Hed Artzi, the country's largest record company, barring it from selling a jubilee anthology with two of singer Gidi Gov's songs.

According to Gov, who asked for the injunction, Hed Artzi violated his copyrights by using his songs without approval. The court order blocked distribution of the company's *Gadalu Yashad* ("We Grew Up Together") collection, which includes two of the popular TV talk-show host's and singer's songs among those of other artists.

The court appointed Gov's lawyer, Haim Stenger, as a temporary receiver able to enter Hed Artzi and confiscate album copies.

Gov is also seeking NIS 250,000 in damages from Hed Artzi for financial loss and for harming his reputation. He claims the company's actions have significantly reduced his share of the disc buyers' market.

But a more divisive underside to the relationship was shown in some northern cities, Bond said, where "conflict between blacks and Jews was deep-seated, rooted in tension between landlord and tenant, merchant and customer."

More recently, the words of Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan have widened the split. Farrakhan's talk of black self-sufficiency has won him praise, especially among blacks, but anti-semitic statements have brought him criticism.

## Black leader urges resumption of alliance with Jews

WASHINGTON (AP) — America's blacks and Jews should mend divisions in an alliance that has seen severe strains since it helped define the civil-rights struggles of the 1960s, a prominent black leader said on Monday.

"The coalition between blacks and Jews helped make the American promise real," Julian Bond, chairman of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, told a luncheon gathering of the Anti-Defamation League's Annual Leadership Conference.

"Strengthened, that coalition can finish what it helped begin, and in the process, revive the spirit that brought black and white, Jew and gentile together in common cause," he said.

A history professor at both American University and the University of Virginia, Bond in his address, traced the history of black-Jewish relations, saying that while there are points of conflict between the groups, they share much in common.

"I want to return to that day when we work hand in hand," Bond said.

"Strains between blacks and Jews at the fringes of our society or at the center cannot become reasons why yesterday's cooperation cannot continue on."

Bond, a former Georgia state senator and civil-rights activist who marched with the late Martin Luther King Jr., was elected NAACP chairman in February.

Blacks and Jews helped form the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in 1909. The height of the comradeship between the groups is probably best recalled in the 1964 killings of civil-rights activists James Chamey, a black man, and Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner, both Jews, in Mississippi.

## NEWS

in brief

### Argentina asked to arrest war criminal

The Simon Wiesenthal Center yesterday called on the government of Argentina to arrest Dinko Sakic, the fugitive commander of the Croatian concentration camp Jasenovac, in which over half a million civilians were murdered during World War II, among them some 20,000 Yugoslavian Jews.

Sakic, who commanded Jasenovac from December 1942 to October 1944, was personally involved in the murder of numerous inmates. His presence in Argentina was revealed this week by an Argentinean TV report.

*Jerusalem Post Staff*



Dinko Sakic (Reuters)

### Man who helped capture Goering dies

William M. Keefe, who helped capture Hermann Goering, died on Friday. He was 84.

Keefe took part in the capture of Goering, who was Adolf Hitler's second in command and commanded the Nazi's air force. Keefe graduated from Fordham University and served in the 36th Infantry Division in World War II. He was awarded a Bronze Star.

Keefe, of Arlington, Massachusetts, was a sales representative for a men's clothing company.

He is survived by his wife, Mary, four brothers and a sister. AP

### Ex-Nazi convicted in Italy freed pending appeal

A former Nazi officer convicted in a wartime massacre can go free from house arrest, a military court ruled yesterday.

Ex-Maj. Karl Hass, 86, was sentenced March 7 to life in prison for the reprisal killings of 335 Italians by German soldiers in 1944. He was allowed to serve out the sentence under house arrest at a nursing home in Castel Gandolfo, a hilltop town outside of Rome.

The court ruled yesterday that Hass was not a risk to flee and could leave house arrest pending an appeal.

He had been spared jail because of frail health, and returned voluntarily from Switzerland after the sentencing. AP

### Ya'acov Schwartz denies he faked kidnapping

Ya'acov Schwartz, the 63-year-old Bnei Brak man who is suspected of staging his own kidnapping in an attempt to influence the peace process, denied the charges yesterday in Ashkelon Magistrate's Court.

Schwartz allegedly staged his own kidnapping during US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's visit last September in an attempt to influence the peace process. *Trim*

### Treasury, police to team up against car theft

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman and Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani yesterday agreed to set up a team that in three weeks will make concrete proposals for clamping down on car theft.

The ministers met in Jerusalem yesterday to discuss what Neeman described as "a national plague" from a security, economic, and social viewpoint. The meeting was also attended by police Inspector-General Yehuda Wilk. *David Harris*

### Naharayim victims' get gift from King Hussein

President Ezer Weizman has distributed \$300,000 among the families of five schoolgirls wounded by a Jordanian soldier in the Naharayim massacre. The money came from the \$1 million which was sent to Israel by King Hussein as a token of his sympathy for the victims. Earlier, the families of the seven girls killed in the incident each received \$100,000. *Batsheva Tsur*

### Man gets seven years for murder

Yitzhak Jann was sentenced yesterday to seven-and-a-half years' imprisonment, two-and-a-half years' probation and a NIS 50,000 fine for the murder of ex-convict Avner Moyal in October. Jann pled guilty as part of a plea bargain approved by Tel Aviv District Court. Jann stabbed Moyal to death during a confrontation between his brother, Ya'acov Jann, and Moyal. *Trim*

## Self-administration found good for schools

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Schools which have joined an Education Ministry program for self-administration have become more independent and their staffs demonstrate more pride in the school and satisfaction with their jobs.

According to a study by the Henrietta Szold Institute of six such schools during the 1996-97 school year, the study found the schools' administrative staff had an increased sense of autonomy and authority which filtered down to the teachers, who were encouraged to pursue pedagogic goals important to them.

The spokesman said the project was launched in 1995-1996, and at first included nine elementary schools from seven different towns. During the 1996-97 school year, it was decided that all Jerusalem schools would gradually enter the program, with 19 joining along with 34 from other towns. Another

35 Jerusalem schools joined this year, and all the city's schools will be self-administered next year.

Dr. Ami Volansky, head of the ministry's planning division, said the arrangement allows for the school staff to be more independent decisions regarding administrative, pedagogic and budgeting matters.

"In contrast to the traditional model in which the principal has to get approval ahead of time for many activities he wants to carry out, the self-administration model gives the principal full authority and ability to make decisions and carry them out as he or she sees fit," he said.

The schools receive their entire financial allocation for education directly from the state or the local authority, without the money having to go through intermediaries. This allows them to purchase equipment and services in a way that better suits their individual schools, he said.

### THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

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from Friday, April 10, through Friday, April 17, 1998

The University extends its holiday greetings to its students, staff, alumni, retirees, Friends organizations and all the people of Israel.

\* The facilities of the Cosell Center for Physical Education, Leisure and Health Promotion will be open during this period according to its schedule of activities.

\* The Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Rishon Lezion will be open for emergencies only.



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## Hungarians are having a ball

By MICHAEL RODDY

BUDAPEST - Zoltan Levai, professor emeritus of automobile studies, and his wife Zsuzsanna, in a white mini-gown, eyed the dancers at the Engineers Ball warily.

"I don't really like balls," Levai's wife had said earlier, before they got up from their table. "I don't like to dance."

That may be, but for the up-and-coming social and professional sets of Budapest, balls have become the thing to do in the heady atmosphere of near-prosperity washing over this former Communist country.

"People now can afford to go to balls and everybody can have their own," Peter Kiss, Hungary's minister of labor, said at the event sponsored by Budapest's technical university. "It's a very civilized thing to do — and it shows how civilized the country is becoming," said Kiss who, with his wife, Csilla, danced the first dance after professionals performing Strauss waltzes scared almost everyone else away.

If Vienna is the capital of the ball culture, then Budapest, recovering economically and hoping soon to join the European Union, aspires to become once again its principal annex after years of hibernation, if not absolute suppression, in Communist times.

Hungary's relatively liberal Communist leaders did allow events like the debutante Anna Ball held annually at Lake Balaton, but mostly there were factory feasts or village fairs.

Today just about every weekend until early spring, balls are being held for doctors, dentists, lawyers, engineers and other professionals. And there are mixed events for people from all walks of life who want to see and be seen in a big way.

"Our aim is to provide a really international social event for the affluent middle class citizens of Hungary," said Peter Kortsmaros, director of the elegant and expensive annual Operaball.

Held at the end of February in the glittering, gilded Hungarian National Operahouse, the third Operaball attracted more than 2,000 people, who paid \$150, to

almost \$600 a ticket.

Operaball-goers heard a 35-minute performance of an operetta by Hungarian-born Franz Lehar, the turn-of-the-century composer of *The Merry Widow*. There also were singers from the Budapest opera, a catered feast from Gundel's restaurant — except for those in the cheap seats — and an unofficial fashion show.

"People attending seemed to be trying to outdo each other," *Noklapja*, a popular women's magazine, wrote after the ball, which was filmed for television and photographed for society pages.

"The more outstanding the evening dress, the better; but others say a black tailored dress is all right, and then you don't need to spend so much," *Noklapja* commented.

The balls vie with each other in offering prizes, the chance to rub shoulders with celebrities and enjoy posh surroundings, which are in good supply in faded but still imperial Budapest.

"What Hungarians are interested in is cars, their stomachs and travel and fashion," said Eva Kortvelyes, editor-in-chief of *Elle* magazine and organizer of the glossy monthly's ball.

To satisfy those various cravings, the *Elleball* offered chances to win a luxury Swiss watch, a holiday and the use of a Porsche sports car, though only for a week.

It also offered patrons a chance to meet what Kortvelyes called "the elite — not the whole elite, but we say always that elite means the most select and most successful people."

"Elite" used to mean (Communist) party people and it had a very bad connotation, but I thought I could change that so...now it means the best actors, actresses, painters, sports people, managers and so on," she said.

Networking is a large part of what the ball scene is all about.

"All the people sitting here graduated four years ago," said Kovacs Balazs, 28, seated at a table with friends at the Engineers Ball. "We decided to come together to this ball for the first time because now, after the Communist regime, there are more and more of them. It's a good chance for us to meet."

(Reuters)

## Moscow must believe in tears

All work, no pay leaves Russians feeling helpless

By DAVID HOFFMAN

POLYSAEVO, Russia — In the village next to the coal mine, among the wives of the miners, anger and bitterness smoldered. For more than two years, their husbands had not been paid. When the director of the Kuznetskaya coal mine drove up for a meeting on January 27, they sprang into action.

Alexander Ternovikh, the director, summoned his top engineers and specialists to his office. He closed the doors. They were back-to-back doors that form a sort of airlock, common to offices built in Soviet times. The women jammed tables and chairs into them.

Ternovikh could not get out. He was a hostage.

For five days, the women and their husbands held Ternovikh captive in his office. They demanded back pay, insisting he could leave only in handcuffs. It was a spark of protest that grabbed attention across the sullen, depressed Kuzbass, a region of southwestern Siberia rich in coal.

Today, however, Ternovikh is free. And the miners are still waiting for their wages. So are a lot of other people in Russia. Despite the government's promises, millions of Russian workers — nurses, teachers, doctors and others — are paid only after months of delay.

The Russian economy is snared in a web of non-payments and stuck in demonetization, which means that instead of cash, barter has become widespread.

Despite flashes of anger and frustration, few Russian workers have resorted to seizing their bosses. Humiliation and pain are endured without mass revolt.

Today, even those who seized Ternovikh are beset by feelings of helplessness, passivity, immobility and fear, according to interviews with miners, their families, their union leaders and local politicians here.

The revolt at Kuznetskaya points to a fundamentally important yet still-puzzling aspect of Russia's transition to a free-market democracy: A yawning gap separates people and their leaders.

The basic institutions of a civil society — the channels by which people make their complaints known — are nonexistent, weak or subversive. Channels banished or neutered in Soviet times — such as the press, labor unions and the church — have just begun to function independently in the new Russian democracy.

In the coal mines, the unions might be the channel for protest, but even the independent unions born during the strikes of the late 1980s remain weak.

"My task is to defend my miners," said Alexander Kazakov, a regional union leader who lacks a strike fund to support his rank and file if



Striking Russian coal miners share a smoke after carrying out essential maintenance work.

they walk off the job. "But we don't have power. Power is money. I can't demand they go on strike if the family has no money."

The state feels we are weak and takes advantage of our weakness," he said. "Russian miners have a deep distrust of all union leaders. If you create a solidarity fund, they say the money will vanish into the sand. Our disorganization and lack of trust means we can't get anyone to unite."

It was here in the Kuzbass that miners first jolted the last Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev. On July 10, 1989, they found there was no soap to wash up with after work. The sit-down they started unleashed a massive strike. The miners were a catalyst for change.

But today their militancy is gone, and so is their enthusiasm for post-Soviet Russia. Gennady Zakharov, 60, recently sat writing in a ledger before a night shift at the Komsomolets mine near here. In a room thick with blue smoke the workers conversed in dour tones. They said their monthly pay is about \$100.

"If we do something, they will send us to jail and free the managers," Zakharov said. "There is no money to leave. Who has a place to go? Who can afford to leave? If we go on strike, the mine will close and we will be out of work sooner."

Added Pyotr Boikov, 35: "There was a strike, and we went back to work. There is no point in striking, the director told us. He said, 'You can stay here, you can even live here.'

There is no money." Hoisting his gear before going down the 787-foot-deep shaft, Alexei Matsuk, 35, said, "I don't know how to live anymore. There is no one left to ask for money. To ask the director for money is pointless."

It's also pointless to ask the government. It's practically impossible to tear yourself away from a place. It just gets worse and worse." He said strike leaders were attacked by hired goons.

In the wintry, coal-dusted villages of the Kuzbass, many saw the events at Kuznetskaya as another example of their predicament.

"We hoped they would punish" the director, said Valya Khasanova, a 45-year-old mother of three who has worked in the Kuznetskaya mine for eight years, running a venditor. "But all that happened was that people spat on us."

The Kuznetskaya revolt is also a cautionary tale about Russia's historic effort to turn the state-owned Soviet factories and mines into private concerns. The mine was one of the first to be privatized, it was one of the best in the region, yet now it is paralyzed.

Austrian businessman Hans Hofer, who invested \$1 million in the mine in 1991, said he is deeply discouraged and claimed that Russian bureaucrats have tried to sabotage the mine so they can reclaim it.

"We didn't take out a single penny," he said. Miners still show up at Kuznetskaya every day, but no

coal is extracted. The boilers and generators are kept going to provide electricity, water, and heat to local villages.

"If they close the mine, there will be no water, no heat," said Khasanova. "This will be a dead place."

It wasn't that way in the early years. The privatization of Kuznetskaya mine, perched on the edge of a gentle hillside, in 1991 was followed by relatively good times. The company began building new houses, some of which, half-finished, are now abandoned. Workers recalled having money to buy consumer goods, even cars.

New equipment was brought in. Hofer said he hoped to switch from providing coal for electric power plants to coal for metallurgy.

But things started to go wrong. The entire coal industry was in distress, saddled by old mines and equipment. Production fell from a Soviet-era pace of 415 million tons excavated yearly to 244 million tons in 1997. Moreover, many customers couldn't pay as the web of debts and nonpayments spread.

The government subsidized the coal industry heavily. In 1993, it liberalized coal prices but continued subsidizing the mines. The subsidies came from Rosugol, a state-run company, the former Soviet coal ministry. Ternovikh, the mine director, said Rosugol failed to pay a \$2.8 million subsidy, which wrecked the Kuznetskaya mine's finances.

The claim is still being disputed in court. Russia recently dissolved

Rosugol and made it part of the Ministry of Fuel and Energy. Igor Kozhukhovskiy, deputy minister, said, "It still needs proving whether there is a debt."

Ternovikh is in hiding. Looking pale and chain-smoking, he said, "They didn't give us our money. Wage delays began. We couldn't pay taxes. And the financial state of the mine declined."

In 1996, an underground fire brought work to a standstill. The wage delays grew longer. Local authorities went to court to try to annul the privatization. A regional court recently upheld the transaction, but the regional governor, Aman Tuleyev, a former Russian Communist Party leader, has vowed to reclaim the mine.

"I have been in the mine every day," said Ternovikh. Hofer complained, "How can you fight against a Russian alliance of illegality and bureaucracy?" Last year, three engineers were killed while exploring the fire zone. The rank and file blamed Ternovikh. He denied responsibility.

After he was taken hostage by the angry workers, the mine director was briefly imprisoned and charged for the deaths, but he was freed by the courts.

"People exploded because they were without work, without money and they faced a spit-on-you attitude," said Bakhtiyar Mamayev, the mayor of Leninsk Kuznetskiy, the nearby town.

"They saw no different future was possible. But I don't think similar things will happen in other mines."

Washington Post

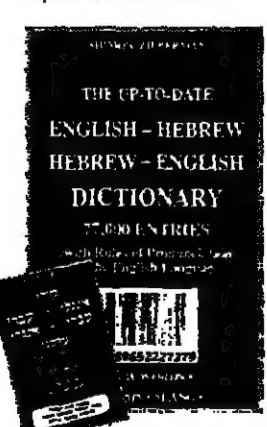
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# Unionists reject Mitchell's peace blueprint

LONDON (Reuters) - Prime Minister Tony Blair's office, seeking to rescue Northern Irish peace talks from the brink of collapse, said yesterday that a document rejected by the province's largest Protestant party was only a basis for negotiation.

The Ulster Unionist Party had rejected the outline peace plan talks chairman George Mitchell presented a few hours earlier. The deadline for an agreement at the talks tomorrow.

"This document is not some-

thing the Ulster Unionist Party could recommend to the greater number of people in Northern Ireland for approval," the UUP said in a statement sent to Blair from Belfast.

A spokesman for Blair could not say whether UUP leader David Trimble had spoken to Blair directly or whether his party's blunt rejection had been transmitted by fax.

But he said: "No one has been asked to accept this document as it stands. It exists as a basis for dis-

cussion and negotiation."

In his message to Blair, Trimble blamed Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern's attitude to the peace talks.

"Before contemplating alternative proposals, I wish to know from you and the Irish government if you are prepared to consider radically different measures. I ask this especially as Mr. Ahern is on record as saying ... that he was not prepared to compromise or negotiate," he said.

Ahern and Blair have cooper-

ated closely during the past week in preparing elements of the document which Mitchell unveiled to the parties at the Belfast talks in the early hours of yesterday.

Earlier Blair, through his official spokesman, made clear that more concessions would be needed to bring together Northern Ireland's feuding parties in the last two days of negotiations on a peace deal.

Speaking after a telephone conversation between Blair and Mitchell, but before the UUP's

rejection, the spokesman said Blair was ready to fly to Belfast at short notice if Mitchell and other participants felt it was useful.

Mitchell presented his long-awaited 65-page document setting out the options for a deal to delegations just after midnight, leaving the parties just two days to work out an agreement.

"We welcome the fact that this is a document that can provide a focus for intensive discussion and negotiation as the deadline approaches," Blair's spokesman

said. Praising the political courage shown by the talks' participants up to now, he said: "Everybody has had to make concessions to get where we are. There will have to be more."

"A deal is possible by Thursday providing people keep focused ... but I will not disguise [the fact that] there are difficulties," he said.

He indicated that Blair would be prepared to miss his regular Wednesday afternoon grilling by

parliament known as Prime Minister's Questions if he were needed in Belfast.

Blair has invested considerable personal effort in wooing and cajoling the Northern Irish political parties since the talks began in September last year.

The talks are aimed at clinching a peace settlement in the British-ruled province to end three decades of conflict between Protestants and Roman Catholics, in which more than 3,200 people have been killed.

## Yeltsin unbending on choice of premier

By TIMOTHY HERITAGE

MOSCOW (Reuters) - President Boris Yeltsin struck a tough note as he kicked off a round-table meeting with political opponents yesterday by ruling out a coalition government and urging them to back his controversial prime minister-designate.

Yeltsin sacked the old cabinet on March 23 and chose little-known energy minister Sergei Kiriyenko, who is just 35, to form a new government to inject fresh vigor into reforms.

"We have spent two weeks without a government," the 67-year-old president said in his opening remarks, witnessed by reporters in the Kremlin. "It is very serious, of course. If it continues, we will lose out even more. That is why I ask you to support the president [on Kiriyenko's nomination]."

Yeltsin, who has called for more action and less politicking from the next cabinet, said he was in favor of finding professional figures to work in government.

But he added: "This does not mean at all, and I ask you not to say this ever again, that I agreed to a coalition government. No, no, I agreed to a government of business-like people."

Amid the bluster, he added a dash

of compromise by suggesting to the 20 or so assembled party leaders, trade unionists and members of parliament's upper house that 1998 should be declared a "non-confrontational year."

"Non-confrontational — I don't veto, you don't reject," he said. "Let's give it a try."

Yeltsin spoke for 20 minutes in a firm and at times gruff voice. Reporters said he looked well.

The meeting — at a round table in a round white-pillared and domed room — was due to last 90 minutes and expected to involve speeches rather than open discussions around the table.

But the talks, along lines devised to crack a stalemate between Yeltsin and the Communist-led parliament last year, are seen as part of a process giving both a face-saving alternative to an early parliamentary election, which neither side wants but which the constitution would demand if the impasse remained.

The row may go on for some time. But the odds on Yeltsin getting his way with the appointment of Kiriyenko as prime minister have shortened considerably.

The Kremlin leader said he sacked the previous government of Viktor Chernomyrdin, because he was

annoyed at its failure to stem mounting wage arrears in the public sector, which have prompted a national day of protest for tomorrow.

With two years of his term left to leave his mark on Russia and ensure the succession of a like-minded heir, the president then doubled the surprise by nominating the outgoing energy minister, Kiriyenko, as premier.

Yeltsin said Kiriyenko would bring new vigor to reform.

A former provincial banker and protégé of liberal first deputy premier Boris Nemtsov, Kiriyenko faces objections from the opposition-dominated State Duma, the lower house of parliament, which must confirm his appointment.

Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov, who leads the biggest party in the house but does not have a majority, has said he will vote down Kiriyenko's endorsement three times if need be — a move that would force Yeltsin to dissolve the chamber.

The nominee was too young and too liberal, Zyuganov said.

Even liberals and pro-Yeltsin parties — seven Duma party leaders who were scheduled to speak at yesterday's round table — have been cool on Kiriyenko's appointment for a variety of reasons



Pilgrimage to Mecca

A pilgrim holds her husband's robe in Mecca yesterday during the annual Hajj pilgrimage. After spending Monday in prayer on the plain of Arafat outside Mecca, the 2.3 million pilgrims yesterday ritually stoned the Pillar of Temptation to show that they have overcome Satan's lures.

(AP)

## Greek, Turkish army heads discuss Aegean

By COSTAS PARRIS

VOULIAGMENI, Greece (Reuters) - Greek and Turkish military chiefs held talks on ways to reduce tension in the Aegean Sea on the margins of a Western European Union (WEU) forum, military sources said yesterday.

The sources said Greek chief of staff General Athanasios Tzonganis and his Turkish counterpart Ismail Hakkı Karadayı met in Voulagmeni, a seaside resort outside Athens, for an hour on Monday night and were considering meeting again yesterday.

The two generals put forward their thoughts on how to avoid tension in the Aegean and agreed to meet again. It is not the start of a Greek-Turkish dialogue, but such contacts are always useful, one source said.

The sources said the two men discussed the implementation of a

1988 agreement to hold off on military exercises in the Aegean during the summer tourist season. Under the agreement, which has been violated often, both countries should avoid military exercises between May and August and notify each other of any military moves that could create tension.

NATO allies Greece and Turkey are at odds over territorial and mineral rights in the Aegean Sea, the divided island of Cyprus, and the human rights of a Moslem minority in northern Greece.

They last came close to war in January 1996 over an uninhabited island in the eastern Aegean. Greece accuses Turkey of provocative violations of its airspace, but Ankara says its fighters fly only in international airspace. Interceptions and mock dogfights are common, especially when both countries hold war games at the same time.

## Two Koreas work towards meeting in Beijing

By JANE LEE

SEOUL (Reuters) - Rivals North and South Korea yesterday edged closer to holding their first bilateral talks since the death of Northern leader Kim Il-sung in 1994, after Seoul said it would accept Beijing as the talks venue.

"It has not been finalized, but the talks will most likely be held on Saturday in Beijing," said Park Won-hwa, spokesman for the South's Foreign Ministry.

He said Seoul's position is that it would accept Pyongyang's request to set Beijing as the venue.

Pyeongyang on Saturday had suggested direct talks between the two Koreas take place on April 11 in Beijing to discuss fertilizer aid and other issues. The North is in dire need of fertilizers because of acute food shortages.

South Korea had responded that it would prefer the talks be held on the Korean peninsula, and the North later reaffirmed Beijing as

its preferred site.

Seoul's Nae-woe Press, which monitors North Korean media, added to the speculation that the talks would be on Saturday when it reported that Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party, had welcomed dialogue.

"The basic agreement between North and South must be carried out as soon as possible, and for that, talks between North and South must be held soon," Kim Yong-sun was quoted as saying at a conference in Pyongyang to commemorate Kim Il-sung's 10 guidelines for uniting the motherland.

"South Chosun [Korea] has said it will carry out interchange and cooperation based on a policy of separating business and politics. If that is truly for the unification of our nation, then we will face it with generosity and not be caught up in the format," Kim Yong-sun said.

South Korean President Kim Dae-jung has made it clear since the start of his term that inter-Korean relations would be expanded. He said business and politics between the two Koreas would be separated to prevent investment opportunities from being stymied by politics. In his inauguration speech Kim also proposed a summit meeting with the North and an exchange of special envoys.

But North Korea watchers in Seoul said Pyongyang had continued to press for South Korea to meet three conditions before an open dialogue could take place. Kim Yong-sun said that South Korea's National Security Law and spy agency, the Agency for National Security Planning, must be scrapped before an open dialogue can take place, and that South Korea must abandon its propaganda against the North, according to Nae-woe.

Analysts said the three major South Korean newspapers carrying

the Northern official's comments had ignored his mention of the conditions, though it was unclear whether the April 11 talks would be subject to those conditions.

"Not enough emphasis is given to the conditions North Korea still asserts. South Korea is just hanging on to the positive words it wants to hear," said a North Korea watcher who asked not to be identified. "The new government seems to be rushing things too much." But Chon Hyun-joon, director of the North Korea studies division at the Korea Institute for National Unification, a unification ministry think-tank, said the new administration was actually taking its time with North Korea by not strongly pushing its agenda through at talks.

"North Korea is attending talks to get fertilizers it needs right now for the spring season. It is thinking, 'let's get what we can,'" said Chon. "And the new administration's position is tolerance to use

these opportunities to build trust with the North." Chon said the North would get fertilizers, and the talks would end this time without any grand results.

"But it will be a stepping stone to expanding relations with the North," Chon said. "And the new government wouldn't want the first talks to break down." South Korea's Red Cross said yesterday it had notified Pyongyang that the first batch of food aid promised at earlier Red Cross talks in Beijing would arrive in the North on April 16.

China said yesterday it hopes ties between the rival Koreas would improve, but declined to comment on whether it would host talks between the two sides.

"We hope that relations between North and South Korea will improve because that will be beneficial to peace and stability on the [Korean] peninsula, in the Asia-Pacific region, and even the world," Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhu Bangzao said.

## India blames China as Pakistan tests missile

By JOHN CHALMERS

NEW DELHI (Reuters) - India said yesterday it is ready to meet any threat to its security and blamed China for supplying its arch rival, Pakistan, with missile technology.

Responding to Islamabad's announcement on Monday that it had successfully test-fired its longest-range 1,500-km surface-to-surface missile, the Defense Ministry said India's medium-range Prithvi missile could reach anywhere in Pakistan.

"We are aware of constant outside assistance to Pakistan in this field," a ministry statement said. "India will draw appropriate conclusions from these developments and take resolute steps to meet any threat to its national security." A ministry spokesman, quoting com-

ments made by Defense Minister George Fernandes in a late night briefing for local media, said Pakistan's missile test had come as no surprise.

"India's own missile program is continuing," Fernandes said. "We don't need to react. We are prepared to deal with anything Pakistan plans to do. India's Prithvi missile is capable of reaching entire Pakistan, so it is for Pakistan to worry about," he said, adding New Delhi does not believe a "war-like situation" is at hand.

Fernandes said it is up to the United States to take up the question of missile technology with Pakistan.

"Everybody knows that China has been supplying missile technology to Pakistan," he said. "China has told the United States

that it is not supplying missile technology to Pakistan. It is up to the United States to take it up with Pakistan."

Washington on Monday appealed to both countries to exercise restraint in their arms programs and said it is examining whether China had any role in Pakistan's missile project.

But in Beijing, China denied it had helped Pakistan develop the new missile and branded as "unreasonable" a US investigation into the possibility.

"As for whether China helped Pakistan, I can say that there is no connection whatsoever," Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhu Bangzao told a regular news briefing. "As for the United States investigating this issue, I believe that is unreasonable and groundless."

China has a history of defense

cooperation with Pakistan and has in the past sold missiles and components to Islamabad. The United States has long been concerned about an arms race on the subcontinent and the possibility that tensions could lead to a war, including the possible use of nuclear weapons.

Both India and Pakistan deny having nuclear weapons but actively pursue atomic energy programs.

Western experts say the two countries, which have gone to war three times since 1947 — twice over the Himalayan region of Kashmir — already have nuclear arms or are capable of assembling them swiftly.

India refuses to accept international non-proliferation accords, but has not exploded a nuclear device since 1974.

## Taiwan urges China to aid SE Asia

By ALICE HUNG

TAIPEI (Reuters) - Taiwan yesterday invited arch rival China to join a drive to help Southeast Asia out of its economic crisis, but Beijing quickly responded that Taipei had no right to engage in such activity.

"I would like to use the opportunity to propose both sides of the [Taiwan] strait to jointly invite Southeast Asian countries to discuss how to stabilize the region's financial situation and promote regional economic growth," Premier Vincent Siew told parliament in remarks broadcast on state radio. "[The sides] can meet

to try to find a solution."

Siew said the move would allow Taipei and Beijing to make a "positive" contribution in Southeast Asia and help improve bilateral ties. He did not elaborate.

In Beijing, Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhu Bangzao said he had not heard of Taipei's proposal, but repeated China's stock answer to efforts by the island to boost its international profile.

Taiwan, relatively unscathed from the Asian economic turmoil that began last June, has repeatedly said it is willing to lend a helping hand, with senior officials leading business delegations to

the region and major firms announcing investment deals.

The crisis, which saw currencies and stocks tumble, has triggered bail-out packages drawn up by the International Monetary Fund worth more than \$100 billion.

Several leading Taiwan companies have already committed to a \$320 billion (US\$620 million) government-inspired Southeast Asia Fund.

During a recent visit to the region, Taiwan venture capital giant China Development Corp announced extensive investment plans in Thailand and Malaysia and said other deals were "still cooking."

## Mandela may sack more brass as defense chief quits

By BUCHIZYA MSETIKA

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) - South African President Nelson Mandela yesterday sat down for more meetings with his military top brass a day after his chief of defense resigned in a row over a coup report, which was found to be false.

A senior security official predicted more heads would roll in South Africa's armed forces — Africa's most advanced and well equipped — after General Georg Meiring resigned on Monday over a report to Mandela warning of a left-wing coup threat.

That report alleged that some of Mandela's most trusted former members of his guerrilla army Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation), which fought white-minority rule, were scheming to overthrow him.

Presidential spokesman Parks Mankahlana told Reuters that Mandela would brief the armed forces following Meiring's decision to go. "These are briefing meetings," he said, adding that Meiring would also be in attendance.

A senior security official told Reuters a thorough shake-up is expected in the army, especially within military intelligence, which

compiled the report.

Mandela said he never believed the coup report presented to him by Meiring on February 5, which has been dismissed by government officials as "some fantastic piece of fiction." A commission of inquiry appointed by Mandela said last week that there was no substance to the report, which was based on information from a single, discredited source.

Mandela has accepted Meiring's request to retire at the end of May. He has not named a replacement for Meiring, who said he had not acted wrongly and that the content of the report still has to be investigated.

Meiring was one of the old guard of South African generals and was chief of the defense force in the last days of apartheid, but Mandela reassigned him to the top military post after Meiring pledged his loyalty.

The coup report named several prominent left-wing members of Mandela's ruling African National Congress, as well as several top military officers who had come from the liberation armies. Among those listed were Mandela's ex-wife, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, and opposition politician Bantu Holomisa, a former ANC leader.

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## How to lend an ear to kids

Eighty-year-old Berry Brazelton, better known as 'America's pediatrician', is launching a new project aimed at bolstering awareness of children's developmental needs, writes Melissa A. Healy

Now nearly 80 years old, Harvard University pediatrician T. Berry Brazelton stopped seeing private patients five years ago. But, in many ways, his effect on the physical and emotional health of the nation's children has never been greater. The author of 26 books on children and child-rearing, Brazelton is perhaps best known for *Touchpoints: Your Child's Emotional and Behavioral Development*, a best seller since it was first published in 1992. Since 1996, he has been the director of the Touchpoints Project, which trains health-care providers and those in community service to help families recognize and respond to the developmental needs of their children.

Brazelton's television series on *LifeTime*, his regular articles in *Family Circle* and a syndicated column have made him a household figure among parents of young children. As chairman of the Pampers Parenting Institute, he regularly dispenses on-line advice to parents. Even before the death last month of Dr. Benjamin Spock, Brazelton was frequently called "America's Pediatrician." A streetwise young man in a dark suit, he is a doctor on a busy sidewalk recently, sidled up to the manly Brazelton and shyly told him, "I love your show on TV, Doc."

Brazelton has not been shy about dispensing advice to the first family, and not all of it has been so welcome. At a White House summit on early child development last year, Brazelton publicly upbraided President Clinton and other assem-

bled lawmakers for "turning the wrong way" on welfare reform and treating the nation's poor children as an afterthought.

Brazelton has been married to (the former) Christina Lowell (of the venerable Boston Brahmin family) for 48 years; they have four children. A vigorous grandfather of five - soon to be six - Brazelton retains the genteel Texas drawl of his youth and the gentle manner that comes with 43 years of work with young children and their chronically nervous parents. As he spoke with us, he was reading one of his most ambitious projects to date - launching the Brazelton Foundation, which will support research and programs designed to boost awareness of children's developmental needs.

Question: Tell me, what was the genesis of the Brazelton Foundation? Answer: I just think our country is in deep, deep trouble. This (Jonesboro) Arkansas incident was a good example - of a tragic example but a good one - of just what our culture is lacking, which is any attention to families early on so they can in turn pay attention to their kids. I think the parents ought to be on trial, not just the children. Because I think these kids were showing signs of being in a vacuum for a long, long time, and their value systems, with guns and all the rest, was perpetrated

way back in childhood. I think we can expect this kind of violence, this kind of acting out. These kids were bullies. Other kids didn't like them. They showed us in all kinds of ways that they really were looking for help.

So I think you then say well, why didn't the parents help them? They all came now. They're all upset. I think they needed help themselves, way, way back.

We have a model for preventive health care and also preventive early child care, called the Touchpoints Project, based on my book. We know we need to reach out to parents at stress periods along the way - and they're predictable stress periods, based on the child's development. In designing programs, we've got to go after parents and child-care and health-care providers, not just children. That's what we all ought to be after.

Q: What is the problem with parents? Is it that they don't have time? Are they just uneducated to the

needs of children?

A: I think, today, it's mostly stress. Maybe they don't understand the needs of children, either. This is one thing we'd like to find out about. But it's not a lack of understanding as much as not having the energy or the motivation or the time to pay attention to what you know about kids. I think parents are more stressed today - logarithmically more stressed - more stressed than they were when I was raising my kids, 20 years ago. It's time for us to ask, how do we back them up?

We need to get in early and give people the kind of strength they need to understand the child. We need to help them give the child three things that occur in the first three years: a sense of self-esteem, caring about yourself, feeling like you're valuable; then, if you care enough about yourself, you have altruism, you can care about other people, and then, the third thing is the motivation to learn. This third factor - motivation to learn - draws

on all the new brain research - it's not new but at least it's now getting to light.

Q: The president's \$20.7 billion child-care initiative that he announced in January seems to have raised a new debate, or perhaps an old debate depending on how you look at it, on whether child care is the best thing for kids. After all your work with children and families, what's your answer to that question?

A: I think we aren't in a position to answer that yet. What we are in a position to ask is: What kind of back-up for families can we give them that will make it work? The parental-leave bill was based on our research at Harvard, and after 10 years of working, we finally got it. But it didn't do anywhere near enough. Three months is just a start for being home with a new baby. But even if you're there for three months, and you know that child and know that that child knows you, then you can back up your

relationship every day when you come home, every weekend, and you can do things to make up that time missed.

I would say that, ideally, if you can have the whole first year with a child, that would be the best for the child and you - it's not just children at risk, it's adults too. But if you can't, then I think take off long enough, three-to-four months, and then at least maybe - you could go back half-time.

One of the real spinoffs from this parental leave bill was CEOs got really upset about what they were doing to families. So they began to pay attention, and a lot of them now are offering shared-job opportunities and child care on site, are paying attention to what families are going through. Maybe this is how we can turn the country around.

Q: Do you think there are too many women who financially have the option of staying home when their children are very young, who don't do it? Should these women be making different decisions?

A: This is one of the things that I'd like for the Brazelton Foundation to do - expose what you're giving up on in your child's development if you don't make a choice that's really child-oriented. Yeah, I think it's too high, because people are more me-oriented.

Q: Is it the role of government to

encourage them to make different decisions or is it something society is going to have to do on its own?

A: Well, I think government ought to have a role in backing them up. For instance, if there's a subsidy for being at home with your child, that's a government step to back people up. And if there's a way to back families up for scaling back to part-time work when their children are young, or to back up businesses that pay attention to family issues, those are government steps that could be taken and would be very powerful in helping with choice. There's a lot of prejudice against that, so we've got to overcome that if we're going to get there. That's where I think foundations or the private sector can have an effect.

My own feeling, and this is certainly motivating my work, is that if we inform the public about these issues, they can make their own choice.

It's going to take backing at four levels to improve child care - at the national level, at a state level, at an institutional level, like business, and at a personal level. And it's going to be very expensive, there's no question about that. It should be, because child-care providers have to make it worth their while to have the training they need to take decent care of children.

But that leads me back to your question, is day care good for kids or not? Of course it isn't, at this point. But could it be? Maybe.

(Los Angeles Times)

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# Proving Boulez wrong

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

In the 1950s and '60s, Pierre Boulez, one of the leading revolutionaries in the classical music world, claimed that "the string quartet is dead." Not only the string quartet, but he also contended that opera was dead and that all opera houses should be burned.

But according to English violinist Irvine Arditi, 10 years ago "Boulez changed his statement about the string quartet primarily because of us."

"Us" refers to the Arditi String Quartet, which is making a welcome return visit to Israel, playing at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center this Sunday (8:30).

The 24-year old Arditi String Quartet was founded with a clear purpose to "play new music and the music of the 20th century."

Arditi, who founded the quartet, argues that today, "contemporary music is very open and pluralistic. Everything is possible. There is no specific style or development. You never know what you are going to get. I don't know if this is good or bad, I only know that this is how it is."

In its upcoming single concert in Israel, the ensemble plays a quartet by Israeli composer Dan Yehoshua. "We try to play the music of the places we go to as much as we can and then take that music to other places as well. We get many scores sent to us, and Yehoshua was one composer who sent his music. I had it for several years, and this is a perfect time to play it."

The Arditi Quartet has just released a CD of music by another Israeli composer, Beti Olivero. "We have made contact with several Israeli composers but none of these was made through Israel."

The concert program also includes a quartet by contemporary British composer Jonathan Harvey, as well as quartets by Ravel and Beethoven (*The Big Fugue*). "When we play for regular chamber music audiences as opposed to new music audiences - and these are totally different



After hearing the Arditi musicians, Pierre Boulez realized that the string quartet is not dead after all.

audiences - we also perform more classical quartets. But on the whole, we have a tremendous workload and we cannot afford the time to learn the so-called "regular" repertoire. It is nice to play more classical repertoire occasionally, but we usually play music others don't play. You can't do everything, so we concentrate

on contemporary music." Arditi says that in its quarter of a century existence, the quartet has played over 1,000 works. It currently has in its active repertoire over 100 pieces. He asserts with pride that over the years, the quartet has become better - much better. "We play everything now with greater

depth." Arditi does not like to predict the future of the string quartet he inaugurated. "I never like to plan things in advance. We were here for a purpose and that is to revive the string quartet, and we managed to do it. There has been a dramatic change in the string quartet in the last 20-30 years. It is due largely

to us. We were instrumental in revitalizing the idea of the string quartet. There's no doubt about it." The Arditi Quartet is featured in over 80 CDs, including close to 60 of its own. "They are selling and they are usually available around the world, although I realize that in Israel they are not that easy to find," he says.

## Tammy Wynette dead at 55

By JIM PATTERSON

Tammy Wynette, who rose from beauty queen to "the first lady of country music" with hits including "Stand by Your Man," has died. She was 55. Wynette, who had had a series of health problems in recent years, died Monday evening while napping at her home, said spokeswoman Evelyn Striver. The cause of her death was believed to have been a blood clot.

Wynette's 1968 top-seller, "Stand by Your Man," which she co-wrote with her producer Billy Sherrill, became her signature song, with its advice to forgive one's mate because "after all, he's just a man." But her throbbing voice in other tunes, such as "I'll Be Home on My Own," expressed flashes of independence.

She was one of country music's greatest success stories, catapulting from a job in a beauty shop to a three-time winner of the Country Music Association's female vocalist of the year award in 1968 to 1970. Only Reba McEntire won the honor more times - four.

Wynette recorded more than 50 albums and sold more over 30 million records.

"When Tammy opened her mouth, it was the soul of country music," said country singer Patsy Loveless. "Tammy, Dolly [Parton] and Loretta [Lynn] - that was, and always will be, the heart of this music."

Country music fans polled for the annual Music City News awards voted Wynette a legend in 1991, but she said it was premature. "I don't consider myself a legend. I think it's kind of overused," she said.

Throughout her 25-year career, her stormy marriages and hospital stays, even a kidnapping and beating for which no one was ever convicted, threatened to overshadow one of the most successful singing careers in country music history. But she didn't emphasize the negative.

"I've had a wonderful life," she said in an interview. "I absolutely feel I've been blessed tremendously. I can't complain at all." She even became a part of the 1992 presidential campaign after Hillary Rodham Clinton, stressing that her support of her husband was more than routine, told an interviewer, "I'm not sitting here like some little woman standing by my man like Tammy Wynette."

Wynette replied angrily that Mrs. Clinton "offended every true country music fan and every person who has 'made it on their own' with no one to take them to the White House." She added that if she and the Yale-educated Mrs. Clinton ever met, "I can assure you, in spite of your education, you will find me to be just as

bright as yourself." Mrs. Clinton said she didn't mean to hurt Wynette's feelings, and Wynette later performed at a Clinton fund-raiser.

Besides "Stand by Your Man," Wynette's hits included "D-I-V-O-R-C-E," "I Don't Wanna Play House," "Womanhood," "Take Me to Your World," "Your Good Girl's Gonna Go Bad," "Singing My Song" and "The Ways to Love a Man."

In the fall of 1993, she teamed up with fellow country queens Parton and Lynn to record the album *Honky Tonk Angels*. She also recorded several duets with country star George Jones, to whom she was married from 1969 to 1975.

Wynette was born Virginia Wynette Pugh on a cotton farm in Itawamba County, Mississippi. She picked cotton as a child, and as a young woman worked as a waitress, a doctor's receptionist, a barmaid and a shoe factory worker.

In the mid-1960s, she was working as a beautician in Birmingham, Alabama, and making periodic 180-mile (290-km) trips to Nashville in hopes of getting discovered as a singer.

She visited music business offices in Nashville and caught the eye of Grand Ole Opry star Porter Wagoner who asked her to sing at his road shows. Shortly thereafter, she met record producer Billy Sherrill who recorded her for Epic Records and launched her career.

Wynette was hospitalized for various ailments dozens of times, and admitted in the late 1970s to being dependent on pain-killing drugs.

In May 1992, she underwent 14 hours of abdominal surgery to relieve a recurring inflammation of the bile duct. Spokesmen said the surgery was necessary because of complications caused by scars from previous operations. For two weeks in late 1992 and early 1994, she was hospitalized, for a time in critical condition, because of a severe infection of the bile duct.

In 1978, Wynette was abducted at a Nashville shopping center, driven 80 miles (130 kilometers) in her luxury car, beaten and released by a masked assailant. No motive was ever determined and no one was ever arrested, but Wynette said a few years later that the man apparently ended up in prison for another crime.

She filed for bankruptcy in 1988 as a result of a sour investment in two Florida shopping centers. She was married five times: to her high school sweetheart Euple Byrd; singer Don Chapel; Jones; Nashville real estate executive Michael Tomlin; and singer-songwriter George Richey.

Besides her husband, Wynette is survived by five daughters, a son and seven grandchildren. (AP)

## Iranian director seduces the world

By JOHN ANDERSON

Dark glasses indoors seem perfectly appropriate on Abbas Kiarostami, that most cosmopolitan of Iranians. But, he confesses, he's not wearing them for effect.

"The retina in my left eye has remained open," he says, "and no matter what I do it remains open, and it lets too much light in. I have no idea what happened."

It's almost a cliché: the artistic visionary with eye problems. Homer was blind, Milton became blind, Joyce was plagued by failing sight most of his later life, and Raoul Walsh lost an eye shooting *In Old Arizona* in 1929.

They, of course, had mostly their eyes and their art to concern them. Kiarostami also has his country.

Generally recognized as one of the giants of contemporary cinema, the director - of *Close-Up*, *Where Is the Friend's House?* and *Life Goes On* and *Through the Olive Trees* - has been compared to Bergman, Antonioni and Godard, less for specific stylistic signatures than for the mastery of his medium.

Austere and beautiful, spare and deeply spiritual, the films of Kiarostami have seduced the world. And generally rankled the folks back home.

His *Taste of Cherry* is no exception. It's very subject matter - suicide - is an Islamic taboo.

The way he splits the debate within the film between the religious and the philosophical - a tender area in Iranian culture - has also caused consternation. And when he received the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival last year, he forgot himself and kissed presenter Catherine Deneuve, thus igniting a whole new cultural conflagration among his nation's fundamentalists.

"I wouldn't call it kissing," Kiarostami says, almost wearily. "But they were not very happy because in our culture, only animals kiss in public. But it doesn't mean anything."

It does seem trivial, given the film's gravity. From the outset the central character, Mr. Badii (played by non-actor Homayoun Ershadi), drives around Tehran looking for a man to do a simple, well-paying job:

Come to a spot just outside the city in the morning, to a hole dug by a tree, and check if he, Badii, is dead. If he is, bury him.

The people he meets - a soldier, a seminarian and a taxidermist -

respond in various ways to Badii's request. That they are, respectively, a Kurd, an Afghan and a Turk, Kiarostami says, reflects the changes in Iran wrought by war, disaster and revolution.

"That's the real makeup of Iran at this point," he says. "Our country is composed of those people. And so many people born in Tehran now live in Los Angeles (Iranians' term for Los Angeles). It's a fact that the real population of Tehran now is made up of strangers. And to some extent it's like dying. It's like you died in one place and started a new life somewhere else."

His initial inspiration for *Taste of Cherry* was apparently the agonizing illness of his father.

But - like the film itself - there are no simple explanations. "The thought that actually provoked my making this film, I don't have it anymore," he says. "I don't share that idea anymore. At first I thought of showing suicide as a negative thing, but now I don't look at it as a negative thing."

When one out of 100,000 people commits suicide, that means 99,999 do NOT commit suicide. The one who actually commits suicide verifies the choice the rest make in living. And it is that person who actually commits suicide who brings to fruition the thought that life is a choice.

Once, when a person walked out of one of his films, "I became embarrassed. I thought I made a bad film. But he reminded me of the 900 people that wanted to stay. So I was happy that they sat there. And without this choice, life would be very difficult. In the absence of suicide, it's like watching a very beautiful film and, at the beginning, there's an announcement that all the exit doors are closed. Then you cannot enjoy it. Suicide has the function of an exit door."

TO CONSIDER *Taste of Cherry*, one has to start at the end - a conclusion that has baffled audiences at early screenings. Having left Badii in an uncertain condition, with rain starting and darkness having fallen, the film more or less resurrects itself with a video sequence that shows the actor Ershadi up and walking, "soldiers" holding flowers, and Kiarostami and Co. shooting film.

Many concluded that because of the Iranian censors, it was necessary to show that Badii had not killed himself, but Kiarostami dismisses this.

"When they approved of my script," he says, "they accepted it on the condition that suicide would not be shown as a positive thing. But while I was shooting it, I started looking at it not negatively. So I decided to make it open-ended. The entire film was shot over two months, but to come up with the solution for the final scene, I had to wait two years."

He says that on the night he finally came up with the ending, he couldn't sleep. "I could not shoot that he committed suicide or that he did not commit suicide. If I shoot him committing suicide, I would have closed with a negative shot. I didn't want a tear-jerker because I try to establish a distance between the protagonist and the audience," he explains.

"I didn't want to have him indulge in his own problems, so the audience would not get close to him - so even if he did commit suicide, he's not really a known person, it's not the death of a hero. It's hard to have 17 minutes of close-up of a person and not develop an emotional attachment to him, especially when he is constantly asking for help."

But, Kiarostami says, that's the challenge: Creating someone with whom you don't have an emotional attachment. "There was a time while shooting that the actor started crying," he said.

"And we edited it out. So the film is not about one person but about a phenomenon."

This interview, conducted during the New York Film Festival last fall and a recent visit by Kiarostami to Manhattan, saw a change in the director.

He was more forthcoming, more ebullient. Optimism about the state of Iran itself may have had something to do with it. "I'm even more optimistic now," he said, "because I've seen the signs of change, they are visible. Those changes don't pertain just to our profession but across society."

He's also upbeat about the fate of his film. He makes no secret of his dissatisfaction with the way Miramax handled the acclaimed *Through the Olive Trees*, Zeitgeist Films is distributing *Taste of Cherry*.

"For the first one, I opted for the big company and they sacrificed it, didn't do anything with it," he said. "This time I opted for a smaller company, but they are more enthusiastic."

(Newsday)

## NEWS

of the muse

### Channel 2 feeds GNP

The shows we couch potatoes watch on Channel 2 contribute to the country's GNP in the form of royalty fees to the Treasury on the franchisees' income. Since Channel 2 was established in 1993, some NIS 142 million has gone to swell state coffers. Last year alone it sent NIS 30.2 m. *Helen Kaye*

### Chiller thriller from London's West End

Stephen Malatran's *The Woman in Black* is the Real Thing, a Gothic chiller thriller complete with a haunted house, screams, mysterious sightings, thunder and lightning and a twisty-tummy plot that has had London audiences on the edge of their seats for 12 years. It had the same effect on local audiences when JEST's Kelly Hartog directed the show two years ago. Neil France plays Arthur Kippes, the old man who hires a young actor (Jeremy Todd) to show him how he should tell the story to his family. This play within a play within the imagination is directed by Ian Masters. It's coming to the Kfar Sava municipal auditorium on April 23. *Helen Kaye*

### Pessah on the Kinneret

*Kinneret Nights*, from April 13-15 in and around Tiberias, features groups such as Ethnix, Tea Packs (the municipal garden), the Tel Aviv Promenade orchestra, Yehoram Gaon, Tantz of simhas (at the archeology park), and more. There'll be a crafts fair, street entertainers, and the shows are all free. Of course, the traditional Kinneret March is part of the fun. There are 8, 12, and 20 km distances to sign up for. Registration and info, Tel. 06-675-7630/1/2. *Helen Kaye*

### And a fun fair all over

Europark, a traveling fun fair, or luna park as it's called locally, will be spending Hol Hamoed through April 19 in Jerusalem. From there it goes to Beersheba. Other venues include Haifa, Afula, Karmiel and Ra'anana. Europark has games, sideshows, and all the rides anyone could want, including a ferris wheel, the dreaded octopus and more. *Helen Kaye*

## Choral gems

Two discs of Jewish choral music complement each other nicely, although at the outset one must comment that the recording sound mastered by the French engineers working for the Israeli choir is much more impressive than that of the engineers working in Russia for the Moscow choir, which becomes apparent from the first selection in each

### CLASSIC DISCS

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

The Jerusalem Great Synagogue Choir under Elli Jaffe (Christal SCACD 11161) is a professional musical body that excites and captivates its audience not just by the sheer beauty of its sound but even more so through the pure execution of each selection.

Here is a choir that treats cantorial music as if it were art songs, with a very clear emphasis on the words in general and on the projection of these words in particular. Each of the thirteen musical selections on the disc is cause for celebration. The beautiful lyric voice of cantor Naftali Herstik is an added delight, but this is above all a disc in which the choir shines. Jaffe's pensive, precise and devoted conducting elicits a most cohesive, tender sound from the choir. Traditional numbers ranging from Kol Nidre to Adon Olam are always a joy to the ear and the heart.

Although one is often tempted, when listening to such a compilation, to sing along, the purity of the voices here makes us wonder in awe and listen with reverence.

There is no point in singling out any of the selections on this album. The only thing that remains after hearing this disc is to find out when the choir will be performing for the general public and go and hear it live.

The appearance of a disc with a similar musical content from Russia (*Hatikva, Jewish Sacred Music*, The Male Choir of Moscow Choral Synagogue, Mikhail Turetsky, Conductor, Avraam Plesman, cantor, Vladimir Pliss, art director, Mezhdunarodnaya KNIGA MK 427003) is an achievement in itself and one should congratulate both the choir and the record company for preserving on disc a very important musical tradition.

The singing style of the Moscow choir is quite different from that of the Jerusalem one. The Russians sing with passion and pathos. They seem to enjoy singing for the sake of the performance and less so for the actual musical quality of every number. This becomes most apparent when they sing the Israeli national anthem at the end of the album, as well as when they perform folk songs like "Hava nagila" or the more traditional "Shalom aleichem."

From the first time I heard this album, which was recorded in 1990, I was very excited about its mere existence. And even if the purely musical quality of the arrangements and the conducting is somewhat lacking compared to the other disc, on its emotional level this is a recording many would want to own.

## book department

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## For a free shekel

Following the shekel's 1.8 percent depreciation toward the dollar on Monday, both Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel and Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman counseled the public to remain calm. Such exhortations from economic leaders are usually dismissed as expected, but in this case there is not only ample reason for calm, but for the government to continue full steam ahead with currency liberalization.

Analysts attribute Monday's devaluation — peaking at a dollar-shekel exchange rate of NIS 3.70 — to public uncertainty following Frenkel's statement last week that he saw "no reason to think [completion of currency liberalization] will take place any time other than Independence Day." What is not clear is why the marketplace assumed that the shekel would depreciate rather than appreciate following its full liberalization.

Even though by some measures the shekel could be considered overvalued by about 10 percent, there is ample reason to believe that further freeing currency restriction will result in more, not less, foreign currency flowing into the Israeli economy. On Monday, the Bank of Israel announced that net real investments by foreign residents in Israel amounted in 1997 to \$1.8 billion, compared to \$1.4 billion in 1996, a 29% increase. Foreign currency reserves at the same time have bulged to over \$20 billion, about one-fifth of GDP. The balance of payments has improved and the budget deficit has dropped by one half over the past two years. These and other data point to the shekel more or less holding its value following full liberalization.

Even the devaluation itself, though partly reversed yesterday, should be welcomed as a positive step for the economy, after manufacturers and exporters have complained for years that the currency is overvalued. Given these complaints, it is cynical in the extreme for known Frenkel critics such as Manufacturers Association chairman Dan Propoy to dismiss what happened as "nervous devaluation." In essence, Propoy is displaying a preference for the traditional government-concocted administrative devaluation over a real adjustment through less predictable and far more impartial market forces. This, and resistance to currency liberalization generally, is exactly the wrong prescription for the Israeli economy.

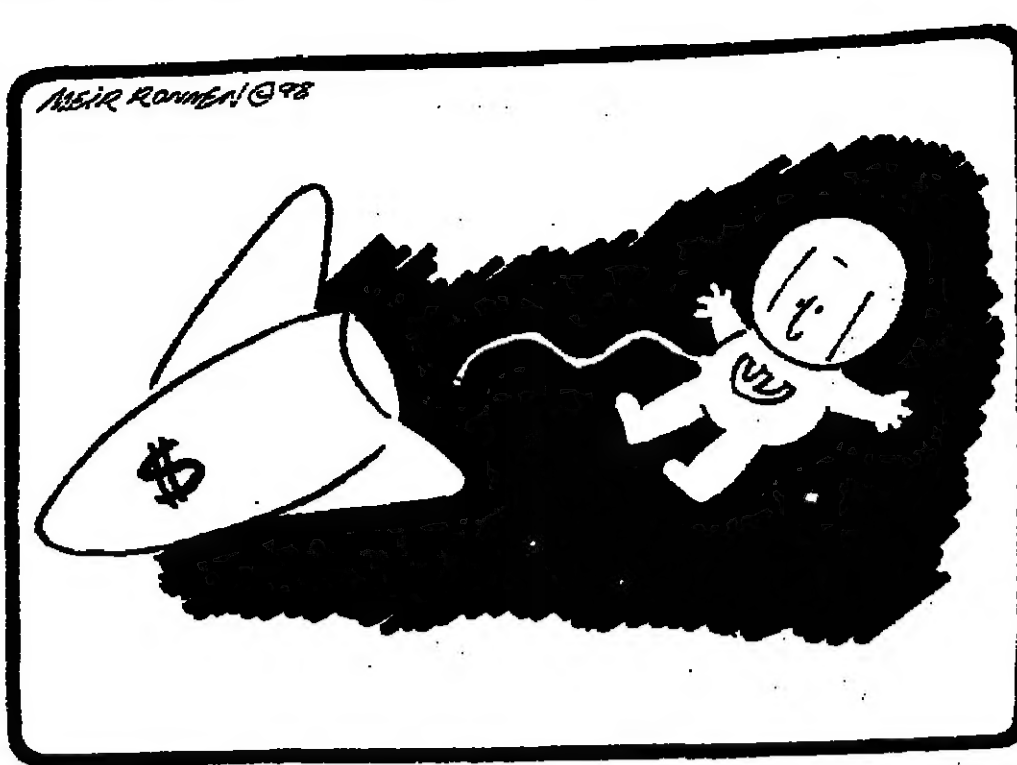
It is perhaps not surprising that industrialists

and bankers who have enjoyed the cocoon of currency restrictions that surrounded the economy would not be eager for greater openness. Though a freely traded currency is not directly linked to opening the banking sector to foreign competition, it is clearly a step in that direction. Competition is scary to entrenched interests, but it is oxygen for consumers who have been struggling under the weight of restrictive credit, high bank fees, and artificially inflated prices by insufficiently open markets.

Full currency liberalization is also a matter of basic economic rights for the consumer. Most of it has already been introduced gradually over the past decade, but some of the final steps are important. There is no reason, for example, why Israelis should not be able to buy property in Europe, or deposit cash in New York. The Israeli economy has shown plenty of ability to attract foreign investment; it has nothing to fear from allowing Israelis to invest wherever and as much as they wish.

One of the most important effects of a convertible currency is to keep the government economically honest. A closed currency allows the government to hide the effects of bad economic policies, and often to pass them on through higher taxes. Free currencies effectively open the economy for grading by financial analysts the world over, and ultimately become a sensitive barometer of the verdict of the global marketplace. In this respect, Frenkel's critics would do well to listen to the rest of his annual speech, in which he called for overhauling the state's 1999 budget. Frenkel was right on target when he called for real cuts in the tax burden and government spending, while shifting the mix of spending from "non-productive areas" to investments in the future, such as infrastructure.

The transformation of the shekel into a fully convertible or "hard" currency may spell an end to the exchange rate stability created by government supervision, but exposing the economy to market discipline will create a more fundamental stability for years to come. The vanquishing of inflation and the completion of currency liberalization are truly fitting presents from the nation to itself for the jubilee year. These presents, however, will not achieve their potential for a positive impact without comprehensive budgetary and tax reform, which in turn will become all the more necessary in the face of greater exposure to global competition.



## Letter of intent

The latest joke doing the political rounds is that out of 120 Knesset members, they couldn't find \$1 to sign a letter similar to the one to President Bill Clinton signed by 81 American senators concerning America's role in the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

This witty joke reflects the degree of friendship implicit in the letter which Clinton received on his return from Africa. During Clinton's safari, politicians here argued among themselves over the extent of IDF withdrawal at this stage, whether it should be 9% of the territory of Judea and Samaria, as Israel suggested, or 13%, as the US recommended.

While the opposition warned of a break with the US if we didn't agree to 13%, 81 out of 100 senators reminded us that the US isn't Martin Indyk, and not even Dennis Ross. One shouldn't forget Congress too, which may not be active in the minor details of the negotiations with the Palestinians, but contains a majority that firmly believes in the principles on which American involvement in the peace process in the region should be based.

This majority, more than four-fifths of the Senate, wrote to President Clinton: "America's commitment to Israel's security undergirds the entire peace process and provides Israel the confidence it needs to take very real risks for peace. As you know, secretary Christopher made a written commitment that it would be up to Israel to decide the size and scope of further redeployments of Israeli forces on the West Bank. Presenting an American plan — especially one that includes a specific redeployment figure beyond what Israel believes to be in its national security interest before final status arrangements —

MOSHE ZAK

runs counter to secretary Christopher's commitment and can only undermine Israel's confidence."

Of course, we should not ignore the fact that the administration is sometimes led by pragmatic considerations to sidestep the decisions of Congress. That happened with Congress's unequivocal decision to transfer the American embassy to Jerusalem. On the other hand, the 76 senators who petitioned president Ford to speed up the supply of arms to Israel at a time of

in the memorandum of understanding.

THE senators' letter is outstandingly clear, more than the Israeli pronouncements. It speaks explicitly: "American Middle East diplomacy, as you know and have shown so well, has always worked out best when pursued quietly and in concert with Israel. We strongly urge you to continue our critical role as facilitator of a process that can ultimately succeed only through the direct negotiations of the parties themselves."

The American senators make no secret of their demand that the administration should cooperate fully with Israel, in order eventually to reach direct negotiations between the two sides. This position is fully justified. If the European Union can pressure Washington to force a settlement on Israel in the spirit of the Palestinians' demands, why should Congress not be entitled to act in the opposite direction and prevent an imposed settlement.

The leaders of Jewish organizations in America were greatly concerned that Senator Joseph Lieberman's initiative wouldn't achieve such an impressive majority. That's why they were hesitant in giving their support. But the senators didn't falter, and surprised the Jewish organizations. Their letter creates a necessary equilibrium between the pressure of Moslem and Arab leaders against administration officials, who are liable to panic in the face of a powerful Moslem reaction.

The American Congress, the Senate and the House of Representatives have earned honor by justly balancing other pressures on the administration, thereby assuring the US role as an "honest broker."

**If the EU can pressure Washington to force a settlement on Israel, why should Congress not be entitled to act in the opposite direction?**

American policy reassessment helped Israel greatly.

The reassessment of American policy in the Middle East that the administration announced, after Israel refused to accept the redeployment map proposed by Henry Kissinger, had caused delays in the supply of arms to Israel, and a majority of both parties in the Senate expressed its dissatisfaction with the delay. Their opinion influenced the administration, and when the Sinai agreement was signed on September 1, 1975, the administration could assume that Congress wouldn't protest the US commitments to Israel's security

## Pessah politics

DAVID NEWMAN

As we recite the Haggada this year, how many of us succeed in transforming the message of the delivery from Egypt into something meaningful for our lives at the end of the twentieth century? For many, the Seder service is an opportunity for family gatherings, while for others it is a religious ceremony which must be adhered to in the most precise and minute detail. Like so many other rituals, it is a ceremony which is performed according to a pre-set routine, but with little thought as to its significance in our daily lives.

The Haggada service symbolizes the physical delivery from slavery and the spiritual transformation of a subjugated people into an independent nation of free and equal people. And over the years, as Jews underwent oppression and persecution throughout the Diaspora, the Seder service took on additional meaning. It came to represent the struggle against all oppressors and the hope for a better future in which there would no longer be masters or servants.

There is one sentence which should have a special meaning for Jewish residents of the State of Israel, the first Jews in two thousand years to actually experience national and political freedom and sovereignty. It is the sentence in which we remind ourselves to view every generation, including our own, as though we ourselves had been liberated from Egypt, as though the transition from slavery to freedom was happening to us at this very time.

But not only are we the masters of our own state, we also control another people. Twenty percent of the citizenry of the State of Israel is an Arab minority who, to this day, do not totally share the same level of political rights or economic standards of living that we, the Jewish majority, do.

For thirty years we have also controlled the fate of two million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza and whom, despite their limited autonomy, of the past four years, still await the

**As long as we continue to control another people, we have not achieved the level of spiritual freedom that Pessah is all about**

opportunity to exercise full national freedom and self determination.

Our test as a free people is the ability to learn from our past histories of oppression in such a way that we are able to treat our own minority populations differently. It is about recognizing the desire for equality and/or national freedom expressed by others even, and precisely, during that period of history in which we have achieved our own national liberation.

YES, I can hear you saying: Why mix the Haggada with our current political problems and dilemmas? One evening in the year, give us time to forget our daily sorrows and withdraw into the exclusiveness of a unique national and religious festival.

Just for one day, don't browbeat us with the plight of others. Let's wallow in our own history of redemption, never forgetting to utter with particular spirit the words (for those who say it at least) in which we beseech a divine being to "pour out his wrath on all those who do not know or recognize his name."

The Jewish people have good reason to remember their oppressors and murderers with particular distaste. It is quite natural to desire some form of revenge. Why, indeed, should we start worrying about the rights of others, particularly when these "others" have also been part of century long struggle aimed at destroying the very foundations of freedom and independence on which the State of Israel is based?

But the message of the Haggada is clear. If we deny the aspirations of other nations who are subject to our control, then we have learned nothing from our sad history. If we really want to see ourselves as a "light unto the nations," then we should actively promote all forms of dialogue and negotiation which will enable others to be as free and independent as we have become.

Not because we love or hate the other people, but because we believe that all peoples — even our adversaries — have the right to be free and equal.

As long as we continue to control another people, deny them the same rights of statehood and independence that we enjoy, we have not achieved the level of spiritual freedom that Pessah is all about.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### THE DEVIL YOU DID KNOW

Sir, — Moshe Arens's "No contrition, lots of chutzpah," (March 27) — his castigating of the 30 years of British administration of the League of Nations Mandate — suffers from one small but important mistake. Britain did not get the Mandate automatically because of the Balfour Declaration, as can be verified by consulting several historical sources. It could have gone to any of the World War I allied powers who, in reality, devised the mandatory system.

If, for example, it had been accepted by the US, we would have far superior treatment to that of other US dependencies because many Christian groups in America would have supported the rapid immigration of Jews to Palestine, in order to hasten the second coming of their Messiah. The Jews would have been given nearly all

the advantages of US citizenship so it would have been ungrateful of them to have expected independence as well.

Perhaps on second thoughts it should have gone to the French, who, unencumbered by the trappings of monarchy, would have extended the benefits of "Liberty, Equality and Fraternity" to Palestine and Transjordan in a similar manner to how they were exercised in Lebanon and Syria. And in place of being almost totally excluded from the French Foreign Legion, Jews would have been encouraged to join up by the thousands.

On final thoughts, the best candidate would have been Italy. This would have enabled the Vatican to express its deep interest in the Holy Land, particularly in the case of Jerusalem where the

fantasy plan of 1912 to transfer the Holy See to the Temple Mount could at last be realized. Of course Jewish aspirations would have been considered by incorporating a synagogue in the building complex to replace the Western Wall. And, for man's material needs Mussolini would, as he did in the Libya and Ethiopia, send thousands to make the desert blossom. Unfortunately for the Jews, the thousands would have been impoverished Italian peasants.

To sum up, by twisting slightly a well-known saying, Moshe Arens and others cannot admit to themselves that "Better the devil you did know than the one you might have had to struggle with."

HENRY JACOBS

Jerusalem.

### SWIPE AT AFRICA

Sir, — There are those who cannot resist taking a swipe at Africa whatever the circumstances, and Thomas O'Dwyer's cynical article "Good Ship Lollipop" (March 25) is typical.

The rousing welcome accorded the Clintons in Accra was spontaneous and reflected the traditional hospitality that Ghanaians are renowned for. To denigrate this by inferring that apart from this welcome, Ghanaians paid little

attention to what President Clinton said, is unfortunate.

As the first hosts on this important visit of a US president to Africa, the people of Ghana were not only understandably enthusiastic, but also eager to hear the message that President Clinton had to share with them. From all indications, they both listened and showed appreciation for what he said.

Your attempts to dismiss the

visit as inconsequential and without much substance, only shows you as one of those cynics who believe that nothing good can come out of Africa. Current trends on the continent show that such views are not only parochial but also outmoded.

KODJO A. WADEE,  
Charge D'Affaires, A.I.,  
Embassy of Ghana  
Tel Aviv.

### AGENCY OUTRAGE

Sir, — Where is the outrage against the Jewish Agency for their decision to evict the tenants at the Mevasseret Zion and other absorption centers with a 30-day notice and to steal the property for the Jewish Agency employee pension fund? That's right: steal.

First, even veteran Israelis with

a sizable bank account would be hard pressed to find a suitable apartment to rent or buy and move in within thirty days. For new immigrants, impossible.

Second, the land and buildings in Mevasseret, worth tens of millions of shekels, were given by the government and private donors to

benefit new immigrants, not to enlarge the personal and private worth of the members/employees of the Jewish Agency pension fund.

DOV BURT LEVY

Mevasseret Zion.

## FROM OUR ARCHIVES

50 years ago: On April 8, 1948, The Palestine Post reported that the Hagana routed Syrian invaders near Birya and Ein Zeitim. Killing 11 of the gangs, wounding 14, and forcing the rest to retreat. The battle for Castel continued into its fifth day while

at the UN Arabs refused to sit with Jews at the proposed truce negotiations.

25 years ago: On April 8, 1973, The Jerusalem Post reported that after an interrogation in two Israeli prisons, the Chairman of

the International League for the Rights of Man had reported that local conditions substantially conformed to the US Standard Minimum Rules for the treatment of prisoners.

Alexander Zvielli





## Playful Picasso



By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

Picasso: The Man, His Works. The Legend, a CD-ROM in English, by Grolter Interactive (UK), distributed by Head-Arzi Multimedia, for ages 11 and up, NIS 229. Rating: ★★★★★

Many people love Pablo Picasso's paintings, sculpture, illustrations, photographs and ceramics, while others don't care for them but wouldn't mind owning one. This well-crafted piece of software — reportedly the only CD-ROM dedicated to Picasso's works — is meant for the former rather than the latter.

The great painter was born in Malaga, Spain, in 1881; he died in France on April 8, 1973 — exactly 25 years ago today.

He left thousands of artworks that are displayed in over 70 galleries, private collections and museums around the world (including our own Israel Museum, which gets a credit at the end of the disk).

Head Arzi decided to distribute this British program, even though it didn't translate it into Hebrew.

The program is a multimedia slide show extravaganza, using music, narration, printed text, video clips, photographs and 600 of Picasso's works. They are listed in both alphabetical and chronological indexes.

Grolter even went so far as to commission the composition of 40 minutes' worth of original music as background for the program. It also borrows from Scarlatti, Esquivel, Scott Joplin and other composers of the past and present for another two hours of accompaniment.

The disk had the blessing and cooperation of the Picasso family, some of whom served as editorial adviser and associate producer. The film clips include extracts from previously undisclosed family archive footage.

For those who want a taste before biting into the program, there is an automatic overview. Just click and it takes you on a romp through the visual and aural material.

The Notebook section presents Picasso's 92 years of life, highlighting the 17 major periods in his art. His father, Don José, often took Pablo to the bullfights — and these bloody confrontations of man versus animal apparently had a profound impact on Picasso's art, as many of his works depict the corrida.

The program painstakingly analyzes the structure and message of the painting *Les Femmes d'Alger*, which is shown on the cover of the software box and was described as a "turning point" in his art and that of the 20th century.

Other works, some of them from private collections that can't be seen elsewhere, are explained, with the reasoning behind each piece given. The user can zoom in and see the lines of construction, as well as get a comparative view of the different works.

The Theme section of the disk offers multimedia material on Picasso's self-portraits, engravings, performing arts, the corrida, sculpture, portraits, ceramics and his studios (he often changed studios, and the first thing he painted after moving in was the scene from its windows).

There is also an excellent glossary with lots of text. To find a term, just click any one of the letters of the alphabet, which is charmingly printed in child-like scrawls. The only shortcoming of this impressive program is the failure

to include a print feature. One can't print out any of the text or the glorious photographs and paintings. Even with today's excellent ink-jet printers, Grolter needn't have worried that these reproductions would have been mistaken for the originals.

Ba Be'heshbon ("Taking A Count"), a CD-ROM from the Gordi series, in Hebrew, by Compedia, for ages five to eight, NIS 149. Rating: ★★★★★

The results of the Education Ministry's latest national math exam for fourth and eighth grades revealed that the level of learning here is so mediocre that the minister, his director-general and the teachers should be forced to sit in the corner.

The average score was around 60, with state religious schools doing more poorly and the scores much lower for the non-Jewish population (that's without calculating Agudat Yisrael and Shas schools, where math gets short shrift).

So anything that can make arithmetic fun, exciting and captivating is recommended. This disk can help, but it doesn't come instead of a good human math teacher. The star of *Ba Be'heshbon* is Gordi, a friendly green creature who asks the user to join a "commando force" to help fight computer viruses. This is, of course, only an excuse to get the child to learn math techniques and show off what he or she learned in games meant to combat the viruses.

The 15 learning chapters, explained by Gordi, include numbers up to 20 and their addition, subtraction and multiplication; geometric shapes, chain exercises, adding numbers in series of 10s; relationships among numbers; and counting in increments of five.

After digesting this information, the user is encouraged to go into the games section. There are half a dozen different types, each of which can be played at any of



three levels of difficulty. There is a mad scientist, whose test tubes must be filled by the appropriate answers to simple addition and subtraction questions; there is a maze that requires dragging the correct numbers to roadblocks that keep the viruses from infecting the computer.

In another game, a torrent of figures appears on the screen, and the user has to click on a spray can with the right answer to kill the virus in time.

One's verbal understanding of geometrical shapes is tested by correctly placing figures on a grid in rapid fire after being asked, for example, to "put the yellow hemisphere to the left of the purple square." In the final game, the users have the sensation of racing through a tunnel in a speeding car as geometrical shapes fly at them; they must click on the number of sides of each object, and any error produces a bright insect-like splat on the windshield.

Try this disk, kids, if you want to do basic arithmetic more. And like basic arithmetic more. And like math teachers, you are assigned to go through it as well — by next Thursday, as a homework assignment that will be graded.

# 'Oh, no — they've recognized me!'

Often forgotten and almost unmentionable in the aftermath of a murder is the ordeal faced by the killer's family. Kathleen Megan reports



Sherry Cobb of Naugatuck, Connecticut, still feels the mix of grief, shock and fury that engulfed her eight years ago when her brother Ricky was accused of the murder of Julia Ashe.

So when Cobb heard that Matthew Beck had killed four of his supervisors at the state's lottery headquarters before killing himself, and about the public apology Beck's father, Donald, had offered, it summoned up painful memories.

She remembers the fear of having her name recognized and the misplaced anger she endured from others at the technical school she was attending at the time.

"They would leave newspapers out with the headlines facing up," said Cobb. "When I walked by there would be little snickers. It was totally uncalled for."

Cobb eventually dropped out of the technical program — "I didn't need that" — and moved to California.

"I wanted to go somewhere where no one knew my name," she said.

Often forgotten and almost unmentionable during the aftermath of a murder is the ordeal faced by the killer's family. Cobb and others know the trauma the Becks are just beginning to learn to live with.

Experts say a murder is often as cataclysmic in the life of the perpetrator's family as it is in the life of the victim's. These families are mired in a confusing mix of anger and love, of grief over the death of the victim and loss of a normal future for their loved one; of guilt that they didn't somehow prevent the crime.

It can be hard for a community to acknowledge the needs or feelings of an offender or that person's family because it's not compatible with the understandable rage it feels about the crime, said Ann Edalati-Estrin, a Pennsylvania expert on family relationships and incarceration.

"It's a double-whammy" for the family of the criminal, Edalati-Estrin said. "They have all these feelings... but they rarely get any support."

Often everything changes for these families. Even such mundane activities as grocery shopping cause great anxiety.

"From what we see in our work you never go back to living your normal life again," said Susan Quinlan, who works with offenders and their families as executive director of Families in Crisis Inc. in Hartford, Conn. "From that point forward, it becomes a critical part of your identity. You're always known as 'the father of...' or 'the family of...'"

FOR MARGARET it was all too debilitating — the sadness and grief resulting from her son's involvement in the murder of two people. She lives in a small Connecticut town and wanted neither her real name nor her residence used in this story.

"I went from being an outgoing person to becoming very withdrawn and afraid to go out," she said. "It was agonizing... I never thought it could happen."

Families of offenders often find they are shunned by friends and neighbors, who treat them as if they have a communicable disease, according to the Rev. Gordon Bates, former executive director of the Connecticut Prison Association, subsequently renamed Community Partners in Action.

Bates said offenders' families may feel so ashamed and guilty that they withdraw from the world. They can become very isolated and depressed, he said.

Margaret, whose voiced cracked

at the memory of the ordeal more than a decade ago, said she was finally forced to overcome her fear of leaving home four years after the murder. Her husband had gone away on a business trip and she needed groceries.

After six tries, she finally got

herself to the store. She went inside and caught the eye of some shoppers — who turned away as soon as they recognized her.

Despite this incident, Margaret says more people were sympathetic than not in the community, and this slowly helped her recover.

"I expected to be run out of town on a rail, but it was totally the opposite. People were kind and benevolent and compassionate."

Cobb said that although she withdrew from her technical program, neither she nor her family withdrew from life, perhaps

because of all the support they, too, received.

"It was very, very surprising," said Cobb, who has since felt comfortable enough to move back to Connecticut. "People you don't even think recognize you or know you" wrote to the family.

"I heard from teachers I had way back when, from people who knew my parents and had worked with them. It was incredible."

Ricky Cobb's crime had been highly publicized. He had raped Julia Ashe, and then bound her hands and feet with packing tape before throwing her off a dam into icy water below.

A Beck family member said the family has received expressions of sympathy and support from neighbors and the community. After his public apology and the funerals of his son and his son's victims, Donald Beck declined to talk to a reporter.

In his apology Beck said that while his son's "monstrous act was monstrous... he was not a monster."

In some cases families continue close relationships with their offending member, while others are unable to.

Of her own brother, Cobb said, "I think that, more than any other family member, I'm very upset with my brother. I haven't had any contact with him."

Quinlan said the community's reaction to the family of an offender can depend on the circumstances. If people "believe that the family somehow contributed to the crime in some way by either protecting or hiding" the perpetrator, the community can react angrily.

Quinlan said she feels the Becks have "come across as a family very much trying to do the right thing... I think in this circumstance people will be supportive of this family."

The mental-health issues in the case — Matthew Beck had been under treatment for depression and anxiety — also take it out of the realm of an ordinary criminal case, said Quinlan. "I don't think of him as a criminal," she said, "although what he did is certainly a criminal act."

(Los Angeles Times)

## Getting beyond hatred

Apologies from murderers or their families and even forgiveness from victims' families are part of a national movement in the US toward reconciliation and restorative justice.

When Donald Beck offered a public apology for his son Matthew's murder of four Connecticut lottery officials, it was surprising to many. Could the family of a murder victim ever be expected to accept such a gesture?

The Rev. Walter Everett of United Methodist Church in Hartford, Conn., did. Now a member of the Virginia-based national organization called Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation, Everett's experience with such tragedy began in 1987, when his son, Scott, was murdered by a man named Mike Carlucci.

Everett recalls that in court just after Carlucci was sentenced, he offered a brief apology. Inspired by that apology, Everett wrote Carlucci a letter a few weeks later, around the first anniversary of Scott's murder.

"I told him of my anger and of my frustration," he said. "I wanted to thank him for his apology."

Everett said that then Everett wrote, "As hard as these words are to write, I forgive you."

"When I wrote that initial letter, I felt as though a tremendous weight was lifted from my shoulders," said Everett. "There were still periods of confusion and anger that came back and would stab at me, but I feel the healing process began then."

THE EFFECT of the apology on Carlucci was equally dramatic. His mother had left him as a baby, and he had been more or less unsupervised since the age of 10. He had gotten into a lot of trouble over the years and thought of himself as bad.

"All my life nobody ever told me they forgave me," he said. "Everett's forgiveness 'kind of gave me the will to live again.'"

Carlucci resolved to become a model prisoner and he developed a friendship with Everett. While Carlucci was in prison his father died, and Everett conducted the funeral service. When Carlucci came up before the parole board after three years in prison, Everett testified on his behalf.

Carlucci was released on parole. He married, and Everett performed the ceremony. Carlucci has worked two jobs to pay for his house and support his three children.

"Today he's one of my best friends," Carlucci said, of Everett.

Pat Bane, executive director of Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation, said the group's members are supporters of "restorative justice: making things better for everybody, including the murderer."

Group members, who oppose the death penalty, find that getting "beyond that hatred is for them a more fitting memorial to the person they love, to move forward and not get stuck in anger."

The approach emphasizes helping offenders develop the skills they will need to change their lives when they get out of prison, as most of them will, Bane said.

Too often, he said, the legal system sets up the offender and his family and the victims' families as enemies.

"Too often a lot of [victims'] families say: 'Why didn't he

ever apologize?' Well, his lawyer told him not to. Well, he should have apologized. I hear this over and over when I meet with victims' families."

But even supporters of the program admit that forgiving a murderer isn't something every family can do.

Bane said her group gets lots of letters from murderers saying they want to apologize. She said she talked with Michael Ross, the Connecticut man who has admitted killing eight young women, when he wanted to apologize to the families of the victims. Bane said the families of the victims were not receptive.

Of Beck's apology, Everett said, "I thought it was a very compassionate thing for him to do, that it could lead to healing for him, certainly, and possibly open the door for the families of the other victims as well."

Asked how he imagined his son would react to his relationship with Carlucci, Everett said, "I believe he feels good that I'm at peace. I believe that Scott would not have wanted it any other way."

(Los Angeles Times)

## Fun and games on Seder night



By Ruth Mason

With its symbols, songs and drama, the Passover Seder can be a natural attention-grabber when it comes to young children. But it's also very long, and many parents have seen little ones nod off at the table or just become bored.

Here are a few ideas for games for children of all ages that will liven up your Seder and make it more fun for all.

1. Pass the nuts Have a bowl of walnuts on hand. Give each person a walnut. During some of the songs, have everyone pass the walnut to their right, moving in rhythm to the song. Sounds simple, but it's a challenge for the under-six set.

2. Escaped slave A family member leaves the table and comes back dressed in a long white robe (a sheet), a long white beard (cotton), carrying a big bundle on his back.

He walks around the table, playing the part of an escaped slave. Live visual stimuli like this make a strong impression on young minds.

3. Escaped slave #2 To carry the above one step further, have people at the Seder ask questions of the newcomer. "Who are you?" "Where do you come from?" "What was life like for you there?" "Where are you going?" "Why are you going there?"

4. Leaving Egypt Act out the Exodus from Egypt by assigning roles to people at your Seder. There's Aaron and Moses, of course, Miriam, Pharaoh (who gets to recline on the most comfortable chair), Pharaoh's helper, who stands next to him fanning him and feeding him grapes, and the Hebrew slaves. The slaves can work with imaginary hoes and shovels. Moses and Aaron go to Pharaoh to ask him to let the Hebrew people go. Later, Moses gets to part the Red Sea with his staff. During this improvised play, you can incorporate Pessah songs your children have learned in school. If your family and guests are game, when it comes time to crossing the Red Sea, have everyone take off their shoes and socks and walk through a container full of water. Have towels available at the other side.

5. Onions on the head Incorporate the Iraqi custom of handing out scallions and having people hit each other on the head with them during the "Dayenu" chorus. Make sure they use the green, not the white ends!

6. Moses on the Nile Your children probably know the song "Dumam Shata" about the baby Moses. If they don't, you can sing any lullaby of your choice. Place a large blue cloth (use a big scarf, sheet or towel) to represent the Nile River on the floor, have a child wrap a doll in swaddling and place it on the cloth. Have the Seder participants get up and each take a corner or piece of the cloth and slowly lift it and gently rock the baby Moses on it while singing the song.

7. Become a slave in Egypt Have everyone close their eyes and do the following guided visualization. You narrate as participants follow along in their imaginations: "You are a young boy/girl in Egypt during the time the Israelites were slaves. It is evening and you have just come home from a hard day's work. You are tired and are lying on your straw mat on the floor to rest when you overhear voices outside. They are whispering, but you recognize your older brother's voice. You put your ear to the wall and listen carefully."

The group outside is talking urgently about a plan to escape Egypt and this life of misery. Your heart pounds as you wonder what to do: Do you tell your parents? Do you go out and join the group? Do you go and tell them they are being foolish and endangering you all? Give the partici-

pants some time to think and then have them open their eyes and share what they would have done under those circumstances.

8. Egyptian political parties Divide your guests into four groups of equal number. Assign them membership in a political party: You can make up your own, but here are some suggestions to get you going: The B'nei Yisrael Liberation Front (Israelites in favor of leaving Egypt); The Pharoanic Party (Israelites in favor of staying); the Egyptian Civil Liberties Union, headed by Pharaoh's daughter (Egyptians supporting the freeing of the slaves); the Egyptian nationalist party (in favor of keeping the Israelites as slaves). Have each group go into a separate room or corner and come up with a slogan, song or chant to represent their point of view. Bring everyone back together, have them perform the results of their efforts, and end by voting for the most popular party.

9. More questions Some time before the Seder, ask each child to write down a few questions — something they don't know about Passover. Have one child collect the questions in a box. During the Four Questions, pick questions out of the box and have your guests try to answer them.

(Thanks for this idea go to Noam Zion, author of *A Different Night, The Family Participation Hagaddah*.)



## Comer



By Batsheva Mink  
and David Brauner

Many gardeners regard orchid-growing as a rich man's hobby, both because of the high prices these plants can command and their personality demands. Yet there are a number of orchid species that are well within the moderate means of the amateur.

Without a doubt orchids are the most varied, captivating and exotic family of flowers on earth. The family *Orchidaceae*, with some 900 genera (each genus is marked by a common characteristic) containing around 20,000 species, is the second largest family in the plant kingdom. It is exceeded only by the family of grains and grasses.

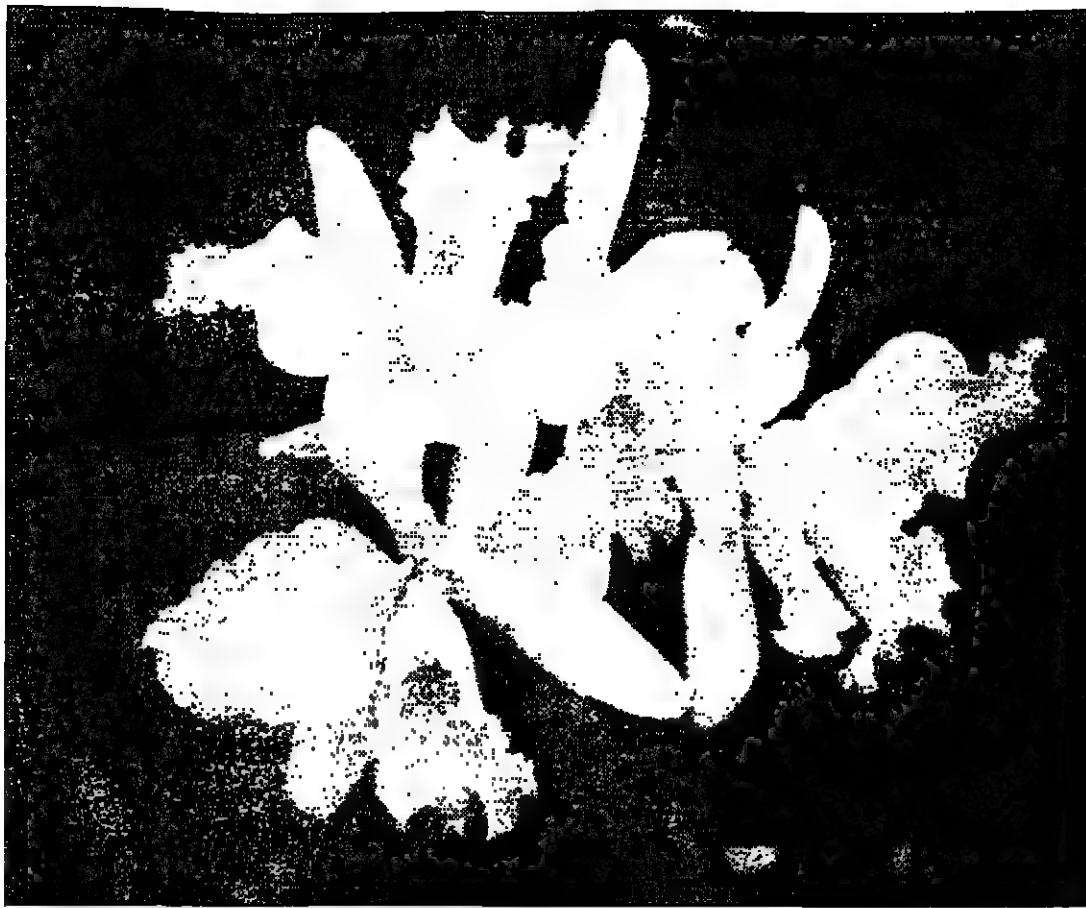
Orchid flowers grow in all sizes, shapes and colors. Some tiny orchids are measured in millimeters, while others grow as large as 25 cm. across. Though they gravitate to the tropics, orchids have a range that covers the globe, except for the polar and most desert regions. Some are epiphytes ("air plants"), a few flourish on water (semi-aquatic), others can tolerate salt spray from the sea, and certain rare species in Australia grow in caves. In the wild, many have extraordinary pollinating mechanisms using insects, birds and even snails.

The ancient natural scientist Theophrastus applied the name "orchid," Greek for testicle (orchis), to these plants because of the resemblance of the root tubers of the common European *Orchis morio* to the male organ. The Hebrew and Arabic names, *sachlav* and *sachlab*, respectively, refer both to the flower and the delicate tasting pudding made from orchid flowers.

The first tropical orchid plants to arrive in Europe came from the West Indies in the mid-18th century. These included the famous vanilla species, whose seedpods supply the flavoring agent vanilla, the only economically important product derived from the orchid family.

The first Asiatic orchids, like the winged cymbidiums, came later in the century. Orchids from South America did not arrive in

# Orchid, aristocrat of them all



Orchid flowers are the most varied and exotic in existence — some can be measured in millimeters, others grow as large as 25 cm. across. (Above) The cattleya orchid (Photos: David Ben-Or)

Europe until the beginning of the 19th century. Few plants survived the long sea voyage, which only made them more desirable. Irrespective of their species or native habitats, all orchids were kept in excessively hot, damp and humid conditions with poor light. It took a long time for botanists and horticulturists to realize that not all orchids come from steamy jungles, and that for some types, fresh air and cooler temperatures might bring more success in their cultivation.

So the first lesson modern gardeners must learn is something about the family's basic characteristics, and secondly which varieties adapt easily to being grown indoors.

Most orchids grown by amateur gardeners are epiphytes which come from the tropical and subtropical regions of the world. In their natural state, they do not grow in soil but rather cling to some kind of support, usually a tree or rock, with their fleshy roots. These aerial roots absorb moisture, either as a liquid from

rain or as humidity from the air.

Terrestrial species live on the jungle floor in a fast-draining, leafy humus that never gets soggy. They receive the dappled sunlight that filters through the rain forest canopy, are caressed by humid "buoyant" breezes, and enjoy surprisingly moderate temperatures all year round.

Despite their exotic reputation and seemingly rigid requirements, many orchids are remarkably tolerant plants, which can withstand considerable neglect. In order for orchids to thrive indoors, the grower needs to duplicate the plants' natural conditions as much as possible.

It is not as difficult as you may think. In fact the conditions that most human beings prefer are equally well-suited to orchids.

The local climate has great bearing on the types of orchids one can grow. For instance, the varied and glamorous types cultivated in Singapore, with its very warm day and night temperatures and steamy, humidity, would succeed in tropical parts of Florida, but can

be grown only at great cost (in heating and humidifying) in temperate zones like Europe.

There are many orchids that can be grown right here in Israel. Those of us without a greenhouse, but who are still captivated by the orchid family, need not write them off as hopeless. For one thing, the lower temperatures during the hours of darkness are exactly what many orchid plants normally need to flourish. So in many homes where temperatures can be allowed to fluctuate in a certain room, or even a corner of a room, orchids can be raised. In other words, the aim is to create a little local climate for the plants.

Another problem is lighting. In the tropics near the equator, where many of our home-grown species originate, the hours of daylight and darkness are about equal, that is, about twelve hours each. Of course, the length of the days and nights in temperate zones varies much more through the seasons. But as long as at least ten hours of daylight are provided, this will be enough. During the winter, the

shorter hours of daylight can be extended by a mixture of fluorescent tubes and incandescent bulbs, in the ratio of nine watts of fluorescent light to every one of incandescent.

Another point to consider is the season of the year when your choice of orchids flower. Because of the wide range, orchids flower in all seasons. So plants should be chosen for a flowering time when the family is at home to enjoy them, and not on holiday.

For gardeners without a greenhouse or a particularly large home where space can be devoted specially to orchid-growing, the most suitable orchids are the phalaenopsis or moth orchid, native to south-east Asia. The time of flowering is usually from autumn to the spring.

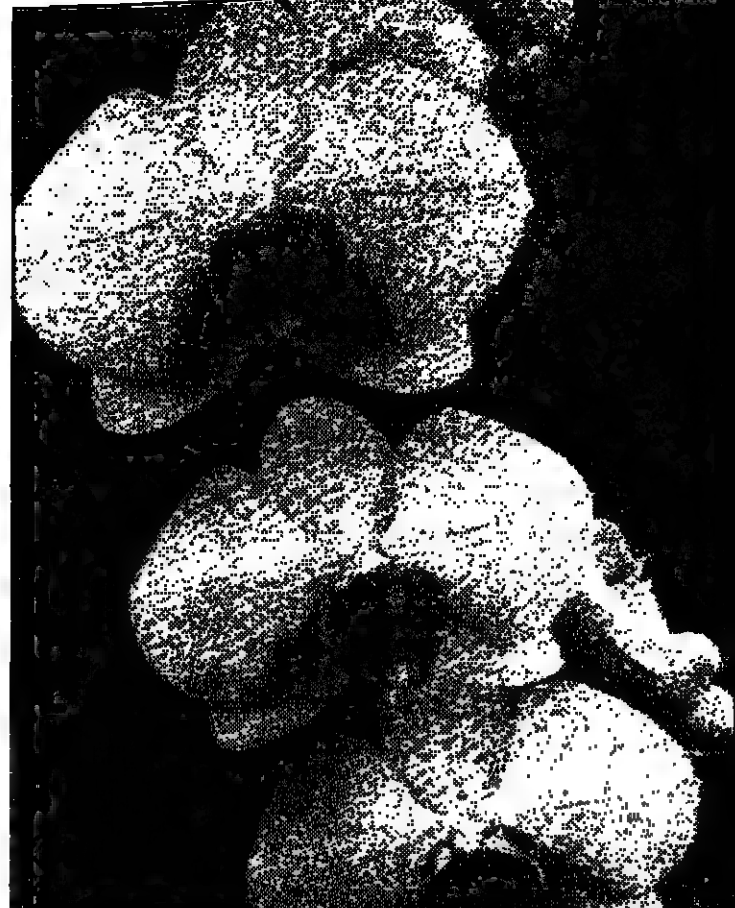
Sara Gilardi, curator of the Jerusalem Botanical Garden tropical house and a long-experienced grower of orchids, suggests the following guidelines for growing the phalaenopsis orchids in the home:

**Position and lighting:** In winter place the pot on a southwest windowsill. In summer move it to a north-facing window. Net curtain shading against the harshest rays of the sun may be necessary. With orchids, it is not recommended to turn the pot around occasionally (as generally done with other house plants), but rather to leave it untouched in its place.

**Temperature:** The temperature should not be allowed to drop below 16 degrees Centigrade. Temperatures of 18-20 degrees suit orchids very well.

**Humidity:** One of the difficulties of growing orchids in the home is dry air. Humidity can be introduced through growing other plants near your orchids. Misting the plants often during the day with distilled water (available at drugstores and service stations) and standing the pots on pebbles in water is another way of creating humidity. But do not let the bottom of the plant pot actually come into contact with the water, only with the pebbles. These are ways of creating a mini microclimate for your orchids. If you can create a humidity between 60-70 percent, that is ideal.

**Watering:** *Phalaenopsis* are epiphytic (air) plants and do not like to have their roots soaked. Keep the soil moist and water only with distilled or rain water. Water the foliage, but only early in the morning before the sun gets strong, and make sure you



Phalaenopsis orchids are air plants and do not like to have their roots soaked.

do not leave too much water in the leaf axils.

**Feeding:** During the active growing season feed once a week. The best fertilizer is one low in nitrogen or a combination of 7-3-7, used at one quarter strength. Stop feeding during the winter.

**Air circulation:** Orchids are used to a flow of gentle moving air, known as "buoyancy" of air. In the home use a small fan, controlled with a time clock to come on at intervals during the day. The "breeze" should not blow directly onto the plants.

**Potting mix:** Here things get complicated, as orchids prefer a free-draining mix not available here in commercial nurseries. It has to be made from scratch. Save your corks from wine bottles and chop them up. Add chopped cork bits to a mixture of ten percent peat moss, 70 percent volcanic stone, 15 percent charcoal. Chopped Styrofoam can be substituted for some of the volcanic stones.

For all orchid growers and

lovers, the Jerusalem Botanical Gardens is presenting a special exhibition of unusual orchids from Israel and abroad during the Pessah holiday between April 12-16, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. For further details call (02) 679-4012/3 or (02) 679-7454.

Your gardening questions and comments are welcome. Contact Batsheva Mink, P.O.B. 3943, Jerusalem 91039, or David Brauner, e-mail: morris@mail.bis.ac.il (write "for David" in the subject line).

## TIP OF THE WEEK

To prevent the introduction of any diseases to your orchid plants, make sure all your tools are sterilized. If you have to cut a leaf or a flower, the scissors must be disinfected by first wiping them with a damp cloth, then holding them over a naked flame for 20 seconds.

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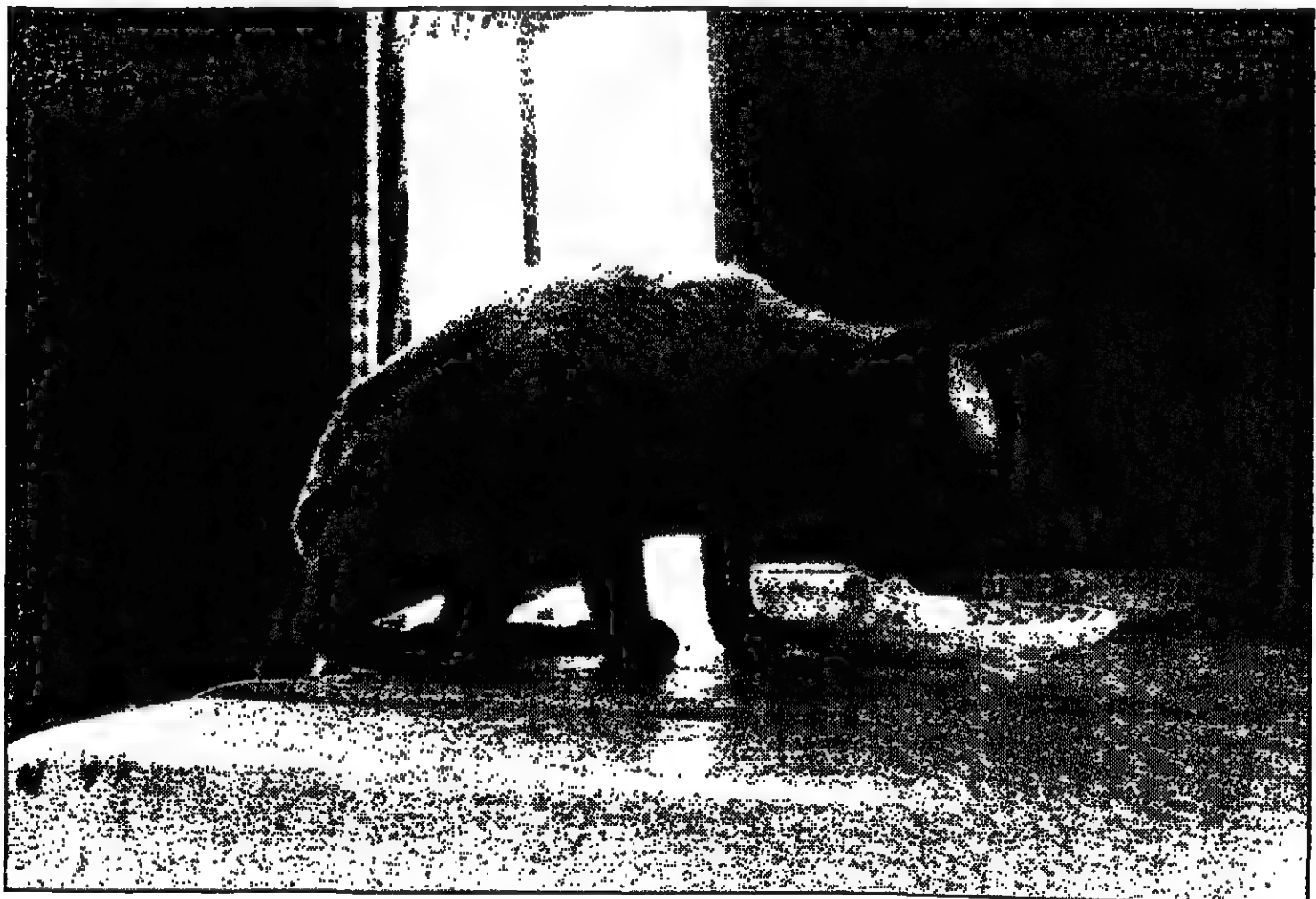
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## Avoid elective anesthesia



Whether the patient is a cat or human being, anesthesia involves some risk.

(Baruch Rimoni)

### Heads 'N' Tails



By D'vora Ben Shaul

A reader in Tel Aviv writes: "Our Siamese cat is three years old and has not been spayed. We wanted to spay her, but she collapsed from the anesthetic before the operation could be done, and the veterinarian thought she was dying. She survived, but we have never dared repeat the attempt."

The problem is that although she gets hormone shots regularly,

they don't always work.

"At present, she has a second litter of kittens. What can we do? Should we risk another attempt at spaying her?"

The pain of losing a beloved animal is great, and anyone can understand the reluctance of this writer to take any more chances. Unfortunately, all anesthetics involve some risk. This is true whether the patient is an animal or a human and whether the anesthetic is administered for major surgery or a simple teeth cleaning.

In regard to animal anesthesia, the chances of danger are minimal, but that is no consolation for the person who loses an animal that is like a member of the family. It is most unfortunate but in some rare cases, anesthetics do have fatal results.

Sometimes this is due to an undetected problem with the heart,

lungs or circulation. In rare instances it is a case of improper administration.

It is important to bear this in mind when choosing a veterinary surgeon.

It is virtually impossible for one person to operate on an animal and monitor the anesthesia at the same time. It is important, therefore, to select a surgeon who works with an assistant who keeps track of the animal's heart rate, breathing, and blood pressure.

No matter how good a surgeon is, he or she is one person, and surgery done with a general anesthetic is simply not a solo act. Therefore, an anesthetic should never be given unless it is necessary.

That rules out most elective procedures.

For most cats, an injection of hormones every six months is

enough to ensure sterility, but this is not always the case, as seen in the instance cited here. Some cats need injections every five or even four months to be sure.

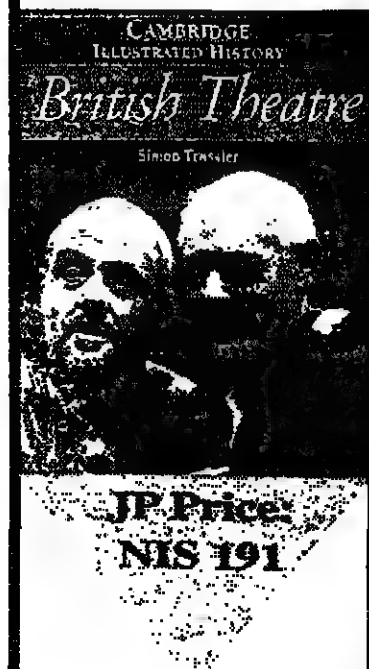
Consult your veterinarian about this, but according to the *Merck Veterinary Handbook*, unwanted pregnancy can usually be avoided by giving the hormone more frequently.

In the US, some veterinarians use an implant of hormone under the skin which seems to work for about two years, but I don't know if this is available here. Again, consult your veterinarian or ask at the School of Veterinary Medicine.

The only other alternative is to keep the cat indoors. But anyone who has ever lived with a female Siamese cat wailing all day and all night when she is in estrus can tell you that this is the least attractive alternative of all.

## The Cambridge Illustrated History of BRITISH THEATRE

by Simon Trussler



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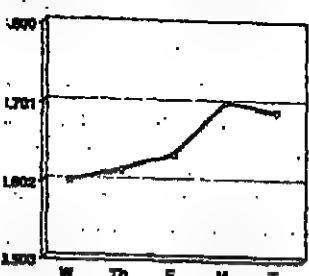
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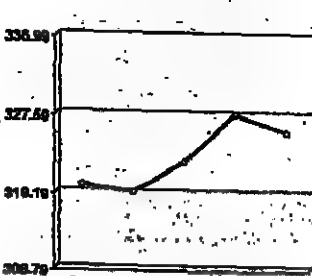
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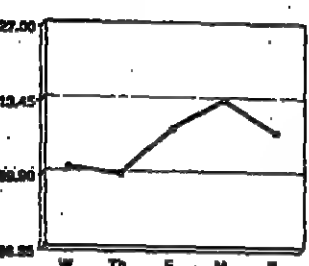


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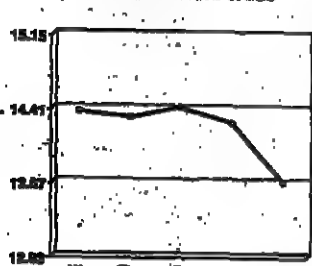
GOLD

\$ per ounce

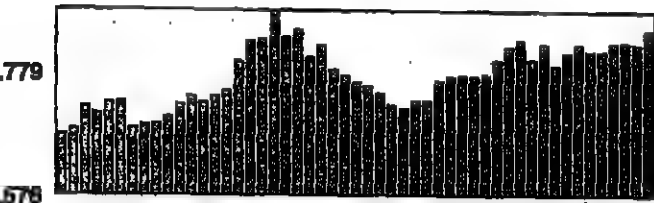


OIL

\$ per barrel of Brent crude



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### Banks must be straight about gov't mortgage

Banks will have to inform customers of the effective interest paid over the loan period on government-backed mortgages, after the Industry and Trade Ministry asked the Bank of Israel to ensure customer protection in the matter.

In a complaint filed to the ministry, it was noted that the loans are presented to customers as being 80 percent linked to the consumer price index, while the interest is 100 percent linked to the consumer price index.

However, only the principal of the loan is 80 percent linked, whereas the interest is 100 percent linked. As a result, the actual interest paid on the loan rises with inflation, and toward the end of the loan period, real interest can be more than 10%, the ministry said.

Thus the loan is less worthwhile than it may appear to customers, according to the ministry.

Nina Gilbert

### IDEO to establish office here

IDEO, the Palo Alto, California-based industrial design and product development company is to establish an office here, the Industry and Trade Ministry announced.

The company was encouraged to open here by the Israeli Consulate in California in order to help Israeli companies develop and design technologies and products and to improve the integration between electronic products and consumers.

Nina Gilbert

## Gov't to buy tilting trains

By DAVID HARRIS

Following two weeks of trials, Israel Railways yesterday said it intends to buy the so-called tilting trains, which can dramatically reduce journey times.

The final decision to issue a tender for the supply of the trains, which can take bends at far higher speeds than the current rolling stock, will be taken in the coming days, said Israel Railways general manager Amos Uzani.

Israel Railways said it expects at least five international companies to bid to supply the trains, which cost about \$3.5 million each.

The tender is likely to allow for leasing in the early stages while the long-term funding is arranged. This arrangement would allow for a

much quicker acquisition of the trains, according to a statement from Israel Railways.

The tilting trains are intended for use on the lines between Tel Aviv and Beersheba, Jerusalem and Haifa. The new technology will reduce journey time by as much as 50 percent, particularly on the Jerusalem and Beersheba lines.

The train is capable of traveling between Tel Aviv and Haifa in 40 minutes (currently the journey takes about one hour) and to Beersheba in 50 (currently 90 minutes), with a Tel Aviv-Jerusalem commute taking about one hour (currently two hours).

The tilting train offers passengers an average speed of 140 kilometers per hour - far in excess of that currently available on these major routes.

Uzani said in February that by the middle of next year there will be 28 daily trains in each direction between Tel Aviv and Beersheba. This compares to the current one train a day in both directions and an additional train on Sundays and Thursdays.

Last Thursday, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman promised to present fresh proposals for the funding of Israel Railways' operations within six weeks.

Uzani said he asked Neeman to fund NIS 815 million in improvements for the routes from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, Beersheba, and Rehovot, and the Rishon LeZion-Rosh Ha'ayin line. This sum would also cover the establishment of stations at either end of Tel Aviv's Ayalon Highway.

## Chief scientist demands extra R&D funding

By NINA GILBERT

Industry and Trade Ministry Chief Scientist Orna Berry yesterday blasted the government for the shortfall in R&D funds this year, saying it would have to set a policy for supporting and encouraging high-tech industries.

"If the government does not change its incorrect policy toward R&D funding, the international status of Israel's high-tech industry could fall," she said, warning that investments in Israeli high-tech would halt and companies would move their R&D abroad.

Berry was speaking at an emergency meeting of the Manufacturers Association with representatives of 100 high-tech companies in Tel Aviv.

The association called on the government to increase the R&D budget by \$100 million, not including royalties, and to formulate a five-year assistance program.

Berry and the manufacturers warned against the possibility of a "brain drain" if high-tech industries are forced to move their research and development abroad.

Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky issued a statement after the meeting saying that he would do "everything possible to solve the budget problem and to continue to support an industry that is the key to the growth of the economy."

In 1997, Sharansky said, high-tech exports grew by 13.1%.

"This indicates the potential for growth in this industry which can make up for the decline in traditional exports," he noted.

"Israel's high-tech industry has a world-class reputation. I have no doubt that Israel's innovation and technological capabilities reached impressive levels as, among other things, a direct result of government assistance," he said.

According to Berry, the budget this year was cut from \$467 million in 1997 to \$260m, as \$70m had to be transferred to cover last year's budget. Demand this year is expected to amount to \$528m, she said.

Berry said the government should consider pegging R&D aid to GDP growth, but at the same time this must be put in a five-year framework in order to keep investor confidence over the long-term.

Association director-general Yoram Belizovsky said the ministry should separate the R&D budget from the rest of its budget. The association is to send a letter to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu explaining the importance of the budget.

Belizovsky said the cutbacks could lead to the loss of hundreds of jobs in the short term and the closure of industries in the long term.

The R&D budget grew 15% in real terms every year until 1995.

## Court approves sale of Gali assets

By GALIT LIPKIN BECK

Tel Aviv District Court Deputy President Yishai Levit yesterday approved the sale of the assets of the Gali Marketing Group for NIS 7.3 million, including NIS 2m. for inventory.

I.H.L., Markovitz Investment Company and Boskila Elizer and Sons, a shoe and leather manufacturer, will acquire the assets and inventory of the debt-ridden footwear manufacturer controlled by Gabi Oron. Boskila also has expressed interest in acquiring the Gali plant in Nazareth.

Attorney Ronni Metri, temporary receiver of GMG's assets, negotiated the transaction.

Oron expressed his objection to the transaction, arguing that the buyers' bid is low and does not even reflect the value of GMG's stocks.

Levit said that GMG must be sold in order to prevent its closure and the layoff of hundreds of workers.

GMG's creditor banks told the court they would cover operating expenses while GMG is under receivership only if it is sold immediately. The major creditor banks are First International Bank, Union Bank and Bank Hapoalim.

"Under these circumstances, it is necessary to approve the sale today even though the highest bid available today is lower than the assessor's valuation," Levit said.

GMG's assets are estimated at about NIS 60m, while it has NIS 88m. in debts.



### Buddy can you spare a job?

Demonstrators dressed up as Chancellor Helmut Kohl (left) and German Minister of Finance Theo Waigel protest against unemployment in Munich yesterday.

(Reuters)

## Labor Ministry estimates:

## Up to 110,000 Palestinians working in Israel

By DAVID HARRIS

As many as 110,000 Palestinians from the territories are now working for Israelis, according to Labor and Social Affairs Ministry deputy director general Eli Paz.

Meanwhile, in recent days the defense establishment approved the reduction of the minimum age of Palestinian workers allowed across the Green Line from 25 to 23. This reduction has been ongoing over the last year from 32, to 30, 28 and two months ago to 25.

Israeli employers are currently requesting permits to be made available for 43,000-45,000 Arab workers, said Paz. On a day-to-day basis, 40,000-42,000 Palestinians with valid permits are entering Israel to work, and the ministry

estimates an additional 30,000-40,000 Palestinians are working without valid permits.

In addition, some 10,000 Palestinians find work in eastern Jerusalem and 15,000 are employed in settlements in the territories.

"We are looking to increase the number of licensed workers to 70,000 in the next few months - that would be very positive," said Paz. "However, it won't be easy, given reduced demand in the economy and the large numbers of foreign workers."

"While we want to increase their number, it's all according to demand," explained Paz. Permits are only issued on request from employers, and given the slowdown in the economy key areas such as construction are

not taking on new workers as they did some five years ago.

Employers have two key ways of recruiting Palestinian staff, either by asking the ministry to grant permits to specific workers or by requesting a specific number of workers for their particular business.

Figures released yesterday by the Employment Service show the number of Palestinian workers receiving its help totaled 34,498 on January 1 and 36,625 a month later. At the start of February, 19,670 were working in construction, 6,668 in agriculture, 5,418 in industry and 2,742 in the service sector.

In addition 2,447 south Lebanese Arabs crossed the border to work here on a daily basis a month ago.

## BVR Technologies links up with Metric System

By STEVE ROOAN

BVR Technologies Ltd. has signed what it described as a strategic alliance agreement with the Florida-based Metric System Corporation Inc. for the production and marketing of the Air Combat Maneuvering Instrumentation (ACMI) training system.

Metric has provided sophisticated equipment for both military and industrial application since 1957, and is regarded as a leader in airborne test, evaluation and training products.

Over the past decade, Metric has developed and manufactured more

than 1,000 second- and third-generation airborne instrumentation pods, including the US Air Force-standard P4B ACMI pod.

BVR president and chief executive officer Aviv Tzidon said Monday that after an intensive search and study, his company concluded that Metric is by far the best match for BVR in the American market and global markets.

"Metric is very focused in pursuing new technologies and provides immense production capabilities," Tzidon said. "Integrating BVR's algorithms and unique hardware into the existing third-generation ACMI training systems

produced by Metric will give the team substantial advantage over the competition."

Metric president and chief executive officer Coy Scribner said BVR's technologies provide what he described "the perfect complement to our high-accuracy, GPS-based [global positioning system] tracking system and our robust long-range data link. By leveraging our respective strengths, we

will be able to create an unprecedented level of interoperability between ACMI training systems throughout Europe, North America and the Pacific."

BVR executives said they have developed and patented several technologies that allow the pro-

duction of fourth-generation ACMI training systems.

The system is the only one which enables unlimited number of participants to communicate efficiently without dependence on ground-based communication network master.

Since 1994, the Givatayim-based BVR has sold the Ehud fourth-generation ACMI training system to eight leading air forces in the Far East, Europe and South America.

Metric has delivered more than 100 airborne instrumentation pods and associated ground equipment to air force, navy and army training and test ranges throughout the US and Europe.

## Venture fund Eucalyptus raises \$34m. for high tech

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Eucalyptus Ventures has succeeded in raising \$34 million for investment in Israeli high-tech

companies, the venture capital fund said yesterday.

The fund announced last September that it intends to raise a total of \$50m. Eucalyptus managing director Aaron Mankovski said the fund will raise the remaining \$16m. in the summer.

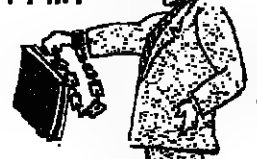
Mankovski declined to specify the names of investors but said they include a large multinational company, US-based institutional investors and private investors.

He added that the fund has already started looking into several companies, since it intends to invest in 13-14 firms.

Eucalyptus was established several months ago by US-based investment house Hambrecht & Quist, together with the local investment firm Tamir Fishman, Mankovski and Bruce Crocker.

The company's management is situated in Israel and the Silicon Valley.

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# Women end up second best again

FOOTBALL, cricket and boxing are sports with which you would readily associate women. And recent events surrounding these sports make the current score 2-1 to the let's-keep-it-that-way brigade.

First it was the Lord's pavilion issue where MCC members voted by secret ballot to keep the time-honored tradition of barring women from the famous old building.

Then last week the Professional Footballers' Association barred Rachel Anderson, the game's sole female players' agent, from attending Sunday's annual dinner.

But on Monday Jane Couch registered a handsome k.o. for women in sport by winning her appeal against the British Boxing Board of Control who had barred her from working as a professional boxer in this country on medical grounds which go something like this: PMT makes women more prone to accidents because they are more emotional and unstable.

As the *Observer* sportswriter Emma Lindsey pointed out on Sunday: "The battle of the sexes - or should it be the sexism? - refuses, point blank, to lie down, presumably suffering from a headache." Lindsey has a point.

The facts speak for themselves. Only two women have passed the Football Association's coaching course at Lilleshall compared with 1,500 men. According to the FA, women are too emotional because... yes, the same excuse as offered by the boxing boys.

Couch appeared on radio and television last week to fight her corner. On a phone-in, boxing promoter Frank

Warren was asked if he would advise his daughter to take up boxing. "I wouldn't," he replied. "But I wouldn't advise my son to take it up either."

But the case against the football agent Anderson is the most worrying, particularly the reaction of PFA Chair (man) Gordon Taylor. The role of chair of the PFA has always attracted the more articulate ex-players, eager to get involved in the game after retirement. Taylor, a graduate and well-spoken person, seemed confused by his own argument when pressed about barring Anderson from the event - especially after Sports Minister Tony Banks and FA Chief Executive Graham Kelly both boycotted the dinner in protest at Anderson's and Hope-Powell's - the new full-time coach to the England women's football team - exclusion.

"It's a private dinner, we're entitled to ask who we want. We're not anti-feminist," Taylor told BBC Radio. One doubts that Taylor and co. would have had the nerve to ban Birmingham City Chief Executive Karen Brady from the event. Brady has led by example in the male-dominated world of football with her outspoken views. Her success is down to a combination of hard work and administrative talent.

For the record, Arsenal's Denis Bergkamp was named PFA player of the year, and if there was an award for referee's assistant (formerly linesman), presumably the

PFA would not be choosing Wendy Toms, the only female assistant in the country. How could she collect the award?

## LONDON CALLING

AND SO, after all the hype, Sheffield United and Wolves did not make any impression on Newcastle and

Arsenal in the FA Cup semi-finals. By next week we should know how near Arsenal are to an incredible double with Manchester United playing twice in the week.

Funny old game, football. Earlier in the season, when things were not going well for Arsenal, all you could hear was criticism of Arsene Wenger's foreign purchases Nicolas Anelka and Christopher Wreh. But Wreh, deputizing for the injured Ian Wright, scored two crucial goals to beat Bolton and Wolves in what has been an incredible week for Arsenal.

Newcastle desperately needed to reach Wembley as their league form has been on free-fall. They are still not clear of relegation, and after all the problems of the pitch, Sunday's semi-final win at least assures them of European football next season (even if they lose the Cup final to Arsenal, it seems likely that the London club will be England's second representative in the European Cup next season, enabling Newcastle to play in the Cup Winners' Cup).

All of which makes Newcastle manager Kenny Dalglish's comments this week a little surprising. Dalglish doesn't say much, (apart

that is, from the smooth renditions of the lines he is scripted on the various television commercials he fronts), so it was quite a media coup when on Saturday he told reporters that he felt he had personally let a lot of people down. "I'm the one who takes credit when things go right, so I must take the blame when things go wrong," Dalglish said.

WHEN Leeds manager George Graham was woken from his sleep in the early hours of Tuesday of last week, he must have thought that he was indeed in the middle of a nightmare. Graham was informed by Leeds chairman Peter Ridsdale that the players, coaching staff and officials had been involved in a narrow escape at Stansted Airport after their plane had to make an emergency landing.

Leeds were on their way back home having been thrashed 3-0 at West Ham, and Graham had returned to his Hampstead flat from Upton Park on the Underground.

The near-miss gave the tabloids plenty of material for the entire week, with particular emphasis placed on the heroics of assistant manager David O'Leary who apparently was the only person among the passengers who listened to the safety procedures and was instrumental in helping in the emergency evacuation.

By Saturday the buzzword around Elland Road was "trauma" and the players were responding in different ways. The incident did not seem to affect their performance on the pitch with a well-deserved 2-1 win over Barnsley in the Yorkshire derby.

## ATP allows coaching at five tour events

MONTE CARLO (AP) - Tennis players will be allowed to receive on-court coaching on a trial basis at five men's tournaments this year, the ATP Tour announced yesterday.

On-court coaching is used in team competitions such as the Davis Cup, Fed Cup and World Team Tennis. But, until now, players have been prohibited from receiving coaching during regular tour events and Grand Slams.

The ATP Tour, which governs the men's professional game, said its Player Council passed a resolution three weeks ago to allow coaching at five tournaments, starting with this week's Salem Open in Hong Kong.

The other designated events are the ATP and T Challenge in Atlanta, the BMW Open in Munich, the Swiss Open in Gstaad and the Mercedes Benz Cup in Los Angeles.

Under the rules, the coach will be designated by the player before the tournament and will sit in a designated place in the stands during the match.

The coach will be allowed to come onto the court and talk to the player for two minutes during the first changeover of each set. That is the only time coaching will be permitted.

## SPORTS

in brief

### Shot putter Edwards banned for life

BIRMINGHAM (Reuters) - Former British shot put champion Paul Edwards was banned for life yesterday for a second positive drugs test.

A British Athletic Federation (BAF) disciplinary panel found Edwards guilty of a positive finding in an out-of-competition test last June following a previous offence in 1994.

Edwards, 39, is the first British athlete to be banned for life as a result of two positive tests.

He was suspended for four years after he was sent home from the Commonwealth Games in Canada in August 1994 when the results of two drugs tests at the European championships in Helsinki earlier that month both showed positive.

He contests the findings of both the 1994 and 1997 tests and has appealed following yesterday's life ban. Edwards said he had never used performance-enhancing drugs and that deterioration of his urine sample could equally explain the positive analysis findings.

### British swimmer suspended after positive test

LONDON (Reuters) - British swimmer Michael Fibbens has been suspended from competition after testing positive for a banned stimulant. Britain's Amateur Swimming Federation said yesterday.

Fibbens, British short-course 100 meters record holder, was tested positive for benzoyllecgonine, a cocaine-like substance, at a World Cup meeting in Sheffield last month.

The British action followed a decision by international body FINA to suspend Fibbens from international competition pending results of a second test.

### Caesarea golf

Sami Haliyo took first place in the A division of the monthly medal competition at the Caesarea Golf Club.

His score was a 72 net. In second place was Clive Josset with 73 and Chuck Shaikowitz was third at 75.

In the B division Kobi Rogovin had the day's best net with a score of 70 strokes. Mike Rubin and Gerald Kessler had 72 but Kessler's inferior back nine left him in third place.

No golfer broke par in the C division with Harry Brodie taking first place with a 75 net, followed by Faith Spector at 76 and Yitzhak Dankner on 76.

After five rounds of the national Coca-Cola league, Kfar Sava lead with 27.5 points, Kfar Shmaryahu are second with 26 and Tel Aviv third with 8. Heather Chait

### S. Korean crisis may kill off World Cup stadia

SEOUL (Reuters) - Plans to build new stadiums in South Korea for the 2002 World Cup finals may be shelved due to the recent financial crisis, a presidential source said on Monday.

South Korea is to co-host the 2002 finals with neighbors and rivals Japan.

But Korean leaders have been forced to slash expenses in all areas to keep the country afloat after an economic crisis forced the government to accept a \$58.3 billion rescue package from the International Monetary Fund in December.

## England skipper Dallaglio sounds warning to rugby bosses

LONDON (Reuters) - English rugby captain Lawrence Dallaglio has issued a warning to the country's rugby bosses - stop tearing each other apart and get on with winning trophies.

Dallaglio, speaking as English Rugby Football Union (RFU) executives savaged each other verbally, said he had turned down a contract worth a reported £1 million with the RFU.

"England are not on the right level under the present system. What we have to decide is do we want to make up the numbers or do we want to win," he said.

Dallaglio jumped into the debate as a

power struggle at the head of the RFU heads for towards an ugly climax.

The row has crystallized into a battle for a place on a four-man negotiating team mandated to end the dispute with England's senior clubs, a battle that is being fought with uncharacteristic venom.

Cliff Brittle, chairman of the RFU's management committee, and his supporter Fran Cotton, a former England prop forward, have found themselves sidelined by a group led by Peter Brook, president of the RFU.

Brittle and Cotton are believed to favor a tough line towards England's increasingly

powerful clubs while Brook is seen touting a more conciliatory attitude.

Brittle, echoing former captain Will Carling's description of RFU bosses as "old farts," said: "There is urgent business to be done to rid the RFU of its archaic old fartism." Cotton resigned as vice-chairman of the board at the weekend, accusing Brook of treachery: "I held him personally accountable for deliberately undermining the management board," he said.

Supporters of closer ties with the clubs said the marginalization of Brittle and Cotton would remove a stumbling block to a solution but England coach Clive

Woodward said he was "dismayed" that Cotton had been forced out.

English First Division Rugby (EFD), which represents the 12 division one clubs, is seeking to expand rugby's top two leagues to two, 14-team divisions and has said it will boycott the European Cup.

The clubs are also balking at the amount of international rugby their professional players are having to play.

Reflecting the new-found business orientation of English rugby, the clubs said in a statement: "No business can sustain two such 'close down' periods (International and European Cup fixtures)."

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NBA  
playoff  
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Women's  
troubles

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Sports Editors  
Joe Hoffman & Ori LewisHolon  
women take  
basketball  
State Cup

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

There was almost as much action in the stands as on the court last night in Holon, as police arrested four Elitzur Ramle fans who apparently couldn't take the fact that their team just wasn't as good as Elitzur Holon, who beat Ramle 84-78 to take their eighth straight State Cup.

Ramle blew its chance for a "double," having beaten Holon for the league championship last week, by throwing the ball away on offense and playing shoddy defense. Holon led by as many as 12 points, and was paced by Milla Nikolic's 24 points and Marina Spitzandell's 22.

Spitzandell and Nikolic were able to penetrate the Ramle defense, while Ramle's outside game was inconsistent, with three-point expert Vika Rodovsky missing a chance to tie the game after her teammates had rallied to cut the gap to 78-75 with under a minute to play.

A short time earlier, a foul assessed to Ramle's Gila Rom angered Ramle coach Meir Eliahu, whose vehement protest ignited the many Ramle fans in the stands. A group of them behind the Holon bench began ripping up plastic seats and throwing them, one of them striking TV reporter Moshe Gerstel.

Holon coach Anat Dreiger was forced to move her team off its own bench, and had to coach the game from under one of the baskets to avoid the unruly fans.

Police eventually arrested four people and restored order, but not before the atmosphere of the event, attended by President Ezer Weizman and his wife Reuma who presented the trophies to the winners, was unfortunately sullied.

The game marked the first time the women's final was held separately from the men's final, which takes place tomorrow night at Yad Eliahu, pitting Maccabi Tel Aviv against Hapoel Galil Elyon.

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Israel youth  
play Spain  
in European  
qualifier

By OFER RONEN-ABELS

Israel's youth (under-18) soccer side takes on its Spanish counterpart this morning in a qualifying fixture for the European Championships.

Preparations for today's match (kickoff 11:00 in Ashkelon) have been overshadowed by an argument last week between team coach Zeev Zeltzer and the Israel Football Association over a postponement of last weekend's youth National League fixtures.

Zeltzer voiced his bitter disappointment at the fact that the IFA refused to cancel the round of matches before the clash with one of Europe's top youth soccer nations. Indeed Zeltzer may turn out to be a prophet of doom following a setback in his preparations of the young side, with key forwards — Maccabi Netanya's Liron Wilner and Maccabi Haifa's Rajib Baransi — carrying knocks from weekend action.

Zeltzer urged, especially young fans, who are currently enjoying their Pesach holiday to turn up and show the same vocal support that helped Israel clinch victory over the highly respected Dutch earlier this year.

## SCOREBOARD

ENGLISH SOCCER — League results yesterday: Division One: Charlton 1, Wolverhampton 0; Sheffield United 1, Middlesbrough 0; Tranmere 2, Portsmouth 2. Division Two: Burnley 1, Blackpool 2; Fulham 1, Watford 1; Grimsby 0, Luton 1; Wigan 1, Bournemouth 0.



LIGHTNING BOLTS — Boston's Pedro Martinez delivers against the Angels.

## Cubs take 6th straight, keep Expos winless

Finley outduels Martinez as Angels edge Bosox 2-1 in 11 innings; Brewers in 1st NL sweep

CHICAGO (AP) — Pitcher Mark Clark hit a go-ahead single with two outs in the sixth inning, and the Cubs won their sixth straight Monday, 3-2 over the winless Montreal Expos.

Chicago, which lost its first 14 games last season, is an NL-best 6-1. Montreal, which purged most of its veterans to save money, is the only winless team in the majors at 0-6 and set a franchise record for worst start.

Clark (2-0) gave up both runs and six hits in eight innings.

Rod Beck finished with one-hit relief for his fourth save in four chances.

Carlos Perez (0-2) scattered nine hits in a complete game.

Brewers 8, Marlins 5  
Jeff Cirillo tied a club record with three doubles and visiting Milwaukee completed its first series sweep in the National League, winning its fourth straight against the World Series champions.

Milwaukee has won five in a row, while the Marlins have lost six straight since an opening-day victory.

Steven Woodard (2-0) allowed one run in 3½ innings, and Doug Jones pitched a scoreless ninth for his second save. Felix Heredia (0-2) allowed seven runs — five earned — in 4½ innings.

Pirates 4, Mets 2  
Francisco Cordova (2-0) allowed five hits and struck out eight in seven innings, and Pittsburgh avoided a four-game sweep with some help from a disputed balk.

With New York trailing 2-0, Mets manager Bobby Valentine was ejected in the fourth inning by crew chief Frank Pulli after Bobby Jones (0-1) was called for a balk for a pickoff throw to first with John Olerud a few steps from the base. Baseball rules say pitchers can't throw to unoccupied bases.

Keith Osk went to second on the balk, took third on a grounder and scored on Tony Womack's single.

Astros 13, Rockies 4  
Jeff Bagwell drove in three runs with a grounder and two-run homer, and Houston overcame Dante Bichette's 5-for-5 performance to notch a home win.

Houston, which out-hit the Rockies 15-13, won three of four games against Colorado, outscoring the Rockies 37-13 and out-hitting them 51-38.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

White Sox 5, Rangers 4

Magglio Ordonez tied the score with a sixth-inning homer and singled home the go-ahead run in the eighth Monday as Chicago won its first home opener since 1992.

The smallest crowd for a home opener in 23 years, 25,358, watched on a chilly 52 degrees F day at Comiskey Park as the White Sox overcame a 4-1 deficit.

Angels 2, Red Sox 1 (11)  
Chuck Finley and Pedro Martinez dueled on even terms into the late innings, and Matt Walbeck's RBI single in the bottom of the 11th lifted Anaheim.

Finley pitched nine innings for the Angels, striking out 10. He allowed one run and four hits, with two walks.

Martinez, making his second AL start, struck out nine in seven innings. He gave up one run and seven hits, and walked three.

Garret Anderson drew a one-out walk in the 11th from Tom Gordon (0-1) and took third on Carlos Garcia's hit-and-run single.

Anderson scored when Walbeck — whose throwing error led to Boston's only run — lifted a long fly that fell a few feet inside the left-field line and over the head of drawn-in Troy O'Leary.

Mariners 8, Yankees 0

Jamie Moyer struck out 11 in seven innings and Alex Rodriguez hit a two-run homer as Seattle won at home.

The Mariners continued their mastery over the Yankees in the 18th time in 22 games, including

the 1995 AL playoffs. Moyer (1-1) and Paul Spoljaric combined on a three-hitter and fanned 15, dropping New York to 1-4.

Ken Griffey Jr. and David Segui hit RBI singles off Andy Pettitte (0-2) in the first inning, and Rodriguez made it 4-0 with his homer in the fifth.

The Mariners broke open the game with four runs in the eighth off reliever Mike Buddie, making his major league debut. Dan Wilson hit a three-run double and scored on Russ Davis' second double of the game.

Indians 6, Athletics 5

suspended, 8 innings  
In a game at Oakland delayed by rain for 3½ hours, the Cleveland Indians led the Oakland Athletics 6-5 when play was stopped after eight innings because of the AL's curfew rule.

About 200 fans from the announced attendance of 6,963 were still in the stands when the game was halted at 1:22 a.m. local time. Under A.L. rules, no inning may start after 1 a.m.

The resumption will begin today, before the start of the regularly scheduled game.

David Justice homered and hit a sacrifice fly for Cleveland. Jason Giambi homered for the Athletics.

AMERICAN LEAGUE  
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Boston 100 60 0.625 0  
Chicago 99 61 0.617 1  
Detroit 98 62 0.613 2  
New York 97 63 0.607 3  
Seattle 96 64 0.600 4  
Texas 95 65 0.594 5  
Toronto 94 66 0.588 6  
Yankees 93 67 0.582 7  
White Sox 92 68 0.577 8  
Oakland 91 69 0.570 9  
Cleveland 90 70 0.563 10  
Minnesota 89 71 0.557 11  
Los Angeles 88 72 0.551 12  
Kansas City 87 73 0.545 13  
Milwaukee 86 74 0.539 14  
Pittsburgh 85 75 0.533 15  
Houston 84 76 0.527 16  
San Diego 83 77 0.521 17  
St. Louis 82 78 0.515 18  
Philadelphia 81 79 0.509 19  
Cincinnati 80 80 0.503 20  
Colorado 79 81 0.497 21  
San Francisco 78 82 0.491 22  
Arizona 77 83 0.485 23  
Florida 76 84 0.479 24  
Atlanta 75 85 0.473 25  
New York 74 86 0.467 26  
Los Angeles 73 87 0.461 27  
Houston 72 88 0.455 28  
Cleveland 71 89 0.449 29  
Detroit 70 90 0.443 30  
Chicago 69 91 0.437 31  
Pittsburgh 68 92 0.431 32  
Milwaukee 67 93 0.425 33  
St. Louis 66 94 0.419 34  
Philadelphia 65 95 0.413 35  
Cincinnati 64 96 0.407 36  
San Diego 63 97 0.401 37  
Texas 62 98 0.395 38  
Seattle 61 99 0.389 39  
Oakland 60 100 0.383 40  
Kansas City 59 101 0.377 41  
Minnesota 58 102 0.371 42  
Los Angeles 57 103 0.365 43  
New York 56 104 0.359 44  
San Francisco 55 105 0.353 45  
Arizona 54 106 0.347 46  
Florida 53 107 0.341 47  
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New York 47 113 0.305 53  
Boston 46 114 0.299 54  
Los Angeles 45 115 0.293 55  
Houston 44 116 0.287 56  
Cleveland 43 117 0.281 57  
Detroit 42 118 0.275 58  
Chicago 41 119 0.269 59  
Pittsburgh 40 120 0.263 60  
Milwaukee 39 121 0.257 61  
St. Louis 38 122 0.251 62  
Philadelphia 37 123 0.245 63  
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Minnesota 30 130 0.203 70  
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New York 28 132 0.191 72  
San Francisco 27 133 0.185 73  
Arizona 26 134 0.179 74  
Florida 25 135 0.173 75  
Atlanta 24 136 0.167 76  
Columbian 23 137 0.161 77  
Washington 22 138 0.155 78  
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New York 19 141 0.137 81  
Boston 18 142 0.131 82  
Los Angeles 17 143 0.125 83  
Houston 16 144 0.119 84  
Cleveland 15 145 0.113 85  
Detroit 14 146 0.107 86  
Chicago 13 147 0.101 87  
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Milwaukee 11 149 0.089 89  
St. Louis 10 150 0.083 90  
Philadelphia 9 151 0.077 91  
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